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GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND'S

POEMS OF MEN AND EVENTS

1899



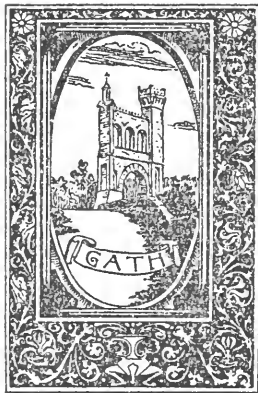




*Gath*

POEMS  
OF  
MEN AND EVENTS

BY  
GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND



GAPLAND EDITION  
**E. J. Bonaventure**  
NEW YORK  
1899



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No. 511.....



## PREFACE

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I HAD devised a publication of all my verses ; but upon arraying them for this edition, with its limited page-type, found that the printer's nicety had overreached me, and I believed that my noble friends, the subscribers, would be better satisfied with a selection of representative compositions than with quantity. I therefore omitted the *Poems* in my book of 1875, and those published in "Tales of the Chesapeake," and "Bohemian Days," and "Poetical Addresses," and set to the front my latest pieces, not till now published, and added to them particular reproductions bearing out the title of this book, or in line with my present preferences and ideas. Forty-three years have gone by since I printed my earliest verse. Although the newspapers have been my bulrushes, holding me up, Poesy has been Pharaoh's daughter, raising me.

GAPLAND, MD., March 6, 1899.



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(To May 1, 1899.)

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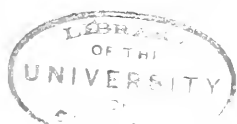


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AUTHOR'S BIRTHPLACE, GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

# POEMS

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## BIRTHDAY THOUGHTS

JANUARY 30, 1899

KING CHARLES'S soul took flight  
This day from his cabal :  
I am no Jacobite,  
My date is radical.

Our place is in the van,  
We move before the facts ;  
The blood of Milbourne ran  
For antecedent acts.

I know not if his name  
And type were in my dam,  
Our phantoms seem the same  
And as he was, I am :

Stern to perceive and say,  
Though not officially,  
And quit the humble way  
From vaulting sympathy ;

An English partisan  
To swell our kingdom big,  
My christening Georgian  
And all my color Whig ;

Nor yet from landed dower  
To reason and to speak,  
Impetuous for power  
To help the faithful weak ;

My quill drawn from the goose  
I hissed the cautious sense,  
And wrote to be of use,  
And for my audience.

Events were all my Muse,  
They warped my wish more pure  
And dried the fresher dews  
Of morning literature.

Imperfect everywhere  
As is the cannon cast,  
Small time did I forbear  
To touch it into blast,

Nor loaded on my heart  
That hungered to be free,  
The convoluted art,  
The printer's factory.

Strong manhood justly wrecked  
I took my arms between,  
Nor harmed the eagle pecked  
By tits of concourse mean ;

Nor would with herds unite, —  
The small peccary band :  
I was the last Free Knight,  
Goetz of the Iron Hand.

To this withdrawing pride  
From daws and choughs and rooks,  
I owe the countryside  
And company of books,

Preferring to be blind  
And silent lines pursue,  
As Milton's lonely mind  
The light of Eden knew.

A few strong friendships kind  
My castles did maintain, —  
The conquests of the mind  
To have its causes gain.

How blessed to have seen  
And known wide Freedom's day!  
Whose generations lean  
The forests hid away,

Since Indians lost among  
Beneath the cypress firs,  
My fathers learned their tongue  
And were Interpreters.

Now almost lost again  
Amidst a mighty race,  
Amidst the teeming men,  
My art is like the chase ;

My bow is well outclass'd,  
My arrows shoot to err,  
But to a forest Past  
I was Interpreter.

POEMS OF MEN

---

JOHN PARKE CUSTIS

To Boucher's school I will not go  
If Nelly's gate I must go past !  
At school, I learn so very slow ;  
From Nelly I learn twice as fast.  
Sweet Nelly Calvert, are you there ?  
Blue jacket, boy's hat, riding whip ?  
Mount Airy has not too much air  
When swells my heart to Nelly's lip.

Turn from the road ! the pines are green,  
Our teacher shall be the wood dove ;  
Stepfather Washington is keen  
And thinks that school-boys should not love.  
What did he know of love, I ask,  
When in my mother's gate he turned ?  
Love is the most delightful task  
That two together ever learned.

Here is a hazel-berried sprig,  
I'll set it in your fillie's fore.  
Kiss me if I am not too big !  
Reprove me not if I adore !  
This budding spring is perfect bliss ;  
Who would not rather on thee look  
Than dawdle at Annapolis,  
Or at Mount Vernon hug a book ?



At Nottingham my boat is moored  
I sent it round Potomac way,  
We'll put our hunters both aboard  
And canter on to Herring bay;  
So far our guardians won't pursue  
But let us have an all-day freak  
And I will bathe you in the blue,  
Sky-feathered wing of Chesapeake.

Or sail you down the golden roads  
Patuxent's ships are lost within,  
To dream more love than Ovid's odes  
Sighed to your high mysterious kin;  
Thy grandam surely was a queen,  
I feel her sceptre in thy moods,  
Thy government is as serene  
As Pocahontas in her woods.

There flashed a fox! She's like a bow  
And arrow on her courser's stride.  
Sweet mistress — *Yoricks! Tally ho!*  
The way to take you is to ride.  
Like a hawk's shadow see her flow!  
To horn and hounds her strain is bred.  
She's galloped into Marlboro':  
Nelly, we're found out: let us wed!

## JUDGES' GRAVES

PRETTY EDENTON! dreaming on the Sound,  
In thy level cotton-fields is a burial ground

Near a planter's dwelling, past a miller's creek :  
(Hold the foxhounds back whilst the tombs I  
seek!)

To the States and province both of foreign birth,  
Guests of courteous Johnstons even in the earth,  
Iredell and Wilson like water oaks of gnarl  
Sleep, as often in one bed, by shining Albemarle.

Washington's own Justices on his bench supreme,  
Here fortuitous they meet in everlasting dream,  
Young in years, in wisdom deep and mutual  
partisan,  
They lie like David in the cave, asleep with  
Jonathan.

How the rigid cedars grow, drinking of their skulls !  
As the lawyer from their minds unknowing of them  
culls.

How the cotton lint is blown on their rusted grill !  
How the bluebird sings to them and they a cen-  
tury still !

As their court in robes is bowed to the bench recess,  
While the bar stands to the sound sudden of " *O*  
*yes !* "

These preceding in their shrouds that God-visaged  
one,  
Cried unto the final Judge their caller, Washington.

Ye who dream that passions quit Justices divine,  
Pause and read Iredell's memoir by Wilson's un-  
marked shrine !

He who Independence signed, on the Bench grew  
pale,  
Lest the Sheriff drag him down to the debtors'  
jail.

Knightly Raleigh who, hard by, planted Roanoke,  
Harried to the axe and block by abusive Coke,  
No more wantoned in career than this Scottish  
chief  
On whose breast the humid light twines the myrtle  
leaf.

Broken-spirited he hid where he might not dwell,  
By the wealth-untroubled home of his friend  
Iredell,—

He of Ireton's Cromwell race, of his name un-  
done,  
Followed Wilson on the bier, out from Edenton.

As they rode their circuits round, till the General  
Term,

They assemble where the Chief Justice is the  
Worm;

In the air their Institutes like a shedding tree  
Annually blossom forth greenest Liberty.

1887.

#### WILLIAM B. ALLISON

THE talent nature gives of Graciousness  
Ambition most perverts, but it outlasts  
Wide combinations and august address,  
And at its table gentles and outcasts

Holy Communion take, like Christ's repasts.  
Allison! framed to give, not to refuse,  
By grace is made refuser of the state;  
He sayeth "no" the heart not to abuse,  
He smooths the suppliant not in vain to wait,  
His largess falls where needful like the dews  
That o'er the chilly zone precipitate —  
And freshening influence on the land diffuse;  
Like Providence his years we do not count,  
Nor see the frost around the living fount.

## BLAINE

(BY GAIL HAMILTON DODGE)

A WISTFUL spirit sensitive  
Whose onset ended in "forgive!"  
And who was timid not to live;

He seemed a ruler of affairs  
But pined away with little cares,  
His port the hound's, his heart the hare's.

Inspiring love, hate echoed it.  
He was uncautious in his wit  
And wounded men of savage grit;

They kept him from the diadem,  
They stabbed the steed which trampled them.  
The people kissed his garment's hem.

He did not have the moral might;  
He had the leman's tender light  
That greatness visits in the night.

A transport still thou didst bequeath :  
That thou wert only underneath,  
Take, Blaine ! the white Camelian wreath !

This book it also is thy tomb ;  
Two women watched it, one to doom,  
A light of Maries fills its gloom.

So is thy end as thou didst rise ;  
Not with a sword thy sculpture lies ;  
The pen for penmen must suffice.

1897.

## PLANTA GENISTA

PRETTY *bonne* of black Angers,  
Sweeping daily in my room !  
Do I from you breathe the airs  
Of the yellow-flowering broom ?  
Plant that the crusaders set  
In the helmets of Anjou  
And were called Plantagenet  
From the broom that busies you ?

*Fleurs de lis* have made me tire,  
Stale the French camelias bloom,  
But my homesick thoughts inspire  
Tender memories of your broom :  
How the housemaids, o'er the sea,  
Ran my boyhood round the room  
And the broomstick fell on me,  
When I fought them for the broom.

Could I be a boy again,  
Would I have that struggle o'er? —  
While I see you, pretty wren,  
Hopping on my sunlit floor  
With your high cap's snowy lace,  
On your cheeks a rosy bloom,  
While your instepped slippers chase  
Waltzes round the flashing broom?

Now I see how Geoffrey's son  
Was the Queen of France's groom!  
Round his whisking youth she spun  
Like the spirit of your broom;  
Swept his mind up like the floor,  
In it one cool vision set,  
Till there were but Eleanore  
And the bold Plantagenet.

Your forefathers came to harms  
By Plantagenetic arts  
Rifling for concealèd arms  
All too near Sicilian hearts,  
In my heart your hand is deep  
And my blood runs like a flume, —  
At your masthead you do sweep  
Up its river with your broom.

Would you give me but my due  
If I grew a moment gay?  
As the red Fulk of Anjou  
France's Northmen drove away?

Or like Anjou's Margaret  
In the Roses' wars of doom,  
In your widowed helmet set  
All the terrors of the broom?

René's knightly orators  
Gave not sweeter tunings vent  
In the tilts of troubadours  
Than your household implement;  
I can see the bright-skinned slaves  
Dusting in my fever room,  
Like the cool tree shadows' waves,  
When your white arms move the broom.

You are of King Robert's race  
And his daughter's romance owe—  
Fiammetta's bending grace  
To a lone Boccaccio;  
Lean your broom by me in trust,  
I can tell you tales as fair;  
You have swept my mind of dust  
With Griselda's light and air.

One sweet kiss that shall Angers  
Ever on my spirit bloom!  
On my heath of barren cares  
Plant the blossoms of the broom!  
Hyssop with your lips my sins!  
For the lists my courage whet!  
And among your Angevins  
Crown one more Plantagenet!

## DANTE

LIKE some bronze statue rust the more restores,  
Dante! thou standest in the junk of old:  
Armor and crosiers, catapults and oars,  
That make thee Pluto in a hell of mold.  
All that hell was thy bony features hold,  
Death and imagination, monkish stern!  
A savage Christ, thou Virgil's hand did fold,  
Mild pagan company in hell's sojourn, —  
Poet who might'st in thy dark age have told  
The light of Friar Bacon, Bannockburn!  
Letters melodious in a barbarous tongue  
Thy banished genius turned thy age upon,  
And feudal night with acclamations rung  
As when in Florence wheeled her gonfalon.

## READING GIBBON

SOME penance for my father's wrong,  
In purgatorial cell,  
His son would do that memory strong  
They named an Infidel;

He who, exiled from sire and home  
For his credulity,  
Made of the mighty tale of Rome,  
Homerian history.

The pulpiteers they did instil  
Aspersions partisan,  
I bought his book and kept it till  
I read it when a man,



Then Koran, Talmud, Testaments,  
Old Moses or his scribes  
Like whimses seemed in Arab tents  
Took down by savage tribes.

The vast procession of mankind  
Like some great circus seemed  
In his kaleidoscopic mind,  
Metempsychosed or dreamed.

Still, in the terms of them who pray,  
I thought his book so wise  
He seemed like Christ on judgment day,  
Who held the great assize.

He wove the bad with so much glad,  
In my astonishment  
Haroun al Raschid in Bagdad  
Was less magnificent.

By night or day in cave or camp,  
His touchstone had such skill  
Aladdin with the burning lamp  
Was Edward Gibbon still.

No creedsman and no mountebank,  
Nor of his soul afraid,  
He had the instinct of the Frank,  
And was the last crusade.

Nor in the literary life,  
His gallantry was sunk ;  
His love was Necker's noble wife,  
For her he was a monk.

He left the gates of faith ajar  
For science yet to hope :  
A gentleman, a warrior,  
An Emperor and Pope.

## CALVIN BRICE

“ I HAVE been everywhere,”  
Said Calvin Brice,  
“ In battle and affair,  
Society and snare :  
If there’s anything up there, —  
Purgatory, Paradise, —  
I would like to go and see  
For curiosity ! ”  
Said Calvin Brice. \*

The spirits in the air  
Heard Calvin Brice ;  
They knew how he would dare,  
So seeing and so fair,  
Country-hearted, *débonnaire*,  
And with never avarice :  
“ He shall have his wish and come !  
Play the dead-march on the drum  
For Calvin Brice ! ”

From the dead line, *sans* care,  
Stepp’d Calvin Brice,  
Topographer to dare  
And with gods to pay his share,

\* Spoken by Mr. Brice to Hon. Edward Wolcott.

Or with apparitions fare, —  
    However fall the dice.  
He has gone beyond the goal,  
The pioneering soul  
    Of Calvin Brice.

And if they keep him there, —  
    Our Calvin Brice —  
With his Absalom hair,  
And his nose large and square,  
'Tis because that everywhere,  
    He is without artifice.  
Hell and heaven must delight  
In a soul so apposite,  
    As Calvin Brice.

## SOPHIE

ALBERT GALLATIN TO LAFAYETTE

MAY 28, 1825

LET me sit by Sophie's grave  
Where the hemlock woodlands wave  
Far above the river's rave —  
    My tender Sophie!  
She was all I had to bless  
In the savage wilderness;  
Brief the time of our caress,  
    My angel Sophie!

O'er the mountains following  
Like the leaping fairy spring,

How she made the young birds sing,  
To see my Sophie !  
Folded on my breast so tight,  
Round us fell the Indian night :  
She was hidden morning light—  
My bride, my Sophie.

It was spring she brought with her ;  
Summer's precious loiterer,  
Autumn dug her sepulcher,  
My darling Sophie !  
O, my heart was like the stone,  
Lettered only with my moan !  
Earth and I were here alone ;  
The winds wailed, " Sophie ! "

Then I quit my shaggy glen,  
Plunged into the strife of men ;  
Glory was a wild beast's den  
Without my Sophie.  
Cruel seems it to achieve  
And her dear mould here to leave ;  
Can she suffer as I grieve,  
My lonely Sophie ?

Though she sent a sister down  
My sad life of man to crown,  
I am dreary with renown —  
It is not Sophie ;  
The wild laurel on her breast  
Of all my laurels is the best :  
Leave me here to sob and rest  
By what was Sophie !

Let me weep on Sophie's grave! —  
Life is timid, death is brave —  
I go mad to think how brave  
    To me, child Sophie.  
Blessings on thee, little wren!  
Though I never come again  
To her mound, I'll hear thee, when  
    I think on Sophie.

NEW GENEVA, PA.

TO JOHN SHERMAN

THY blue eyes look from thy unguileful mind  
Like the boy orphan's in thy mother's brood,  
Or tender on the wife thy manhood wooed,  
Who now is speechless though her look so kind:  
The violets are not more freshly dewed  
Than thy bright eyes and country heart behind.  
Industry, Freedom, Solvency thy heirs,  
They have marched on beyond the old frontiers,  
Clean are their wheatfields thou hast cleansed of  
    tares,  
And their remembrance thy retirement cheers.  
I think how oft that million-blessing palm  
Has crossed my hand with no official fears  
And seem to talk to Nestor in his calm  
When Homer knew him in the vale of years.

OCTOBER 24, 1898.

KIDNAPPED PARSEE

IN Leitersburg along the mountain line  
I fed my horses while I stopped to dine

Amidst the gravestones by a blood-red church  
That like a red bird in a tree had perch  
Upon a summit near the wagon-stand,  
Where flows Antietam into Maryland.  
The fleeing slaves here watched by bloody men  
Unto their slavery were turned again  
Just as they saw salvation's bright'ning day  
Upon the sill of Pennsylvania.

A generation since then had gone by,  
And all the landscape laughed in liberty :  
Free schools and railways, factories and roads,  
And on the mountain chateaus and abodes,  
Orchards of fruit and never-tiring wheat  
Made Freedom's evolution thrice complete.

Here Jacob Leiter in the West so far  
Had pitched his town just after Braddock's war,  
When southward moving o'er the mountain crown  
The Germans like a bursting dam streamed down  
And spread their hamlets o'er the valley thick  
And made a Germany of Frederick.

Joseph, his heir, near three score years dwelt here  
And died not till Emancipation year.  
I read on slender monuments the life  
Of Joseph Leiter and of Ann his wife  
And drowsy in that summer noon I lay  
Between their graves and dreamed this dream away.

---

“What sort of nigger is this we see  
Riding a horse like a white man free ?

Come show your pass ere you go that way!"  
The man said only, "Parsee. Bombay."

"He's a Indian nigger but he will sell;  
Virginia niggers are bred too well:  
We'll cross Potomick with him 'fore day!"  
He sobbed and muttered, "Parsee. Bombay."

They pulled him down and they took his horse,  
The fierce kidnappers without remorse;  
They chained his feet as they hid him away  
And gagged him, mocking, "Parsee. Bombay."

He drew a drug from his straight, black hair  
And swallowed it with a gurgling prayer  
To the Sun that was setting, fiery red,  
And he fell in the shamble stony dead.

They found him there whom they meant to sell  
Cold as a clapperless, copper bell  
In the shop on the undertaker's lot, —  
Joseph Leiter, who knew it not.

Joseph Leiter had born a son  
That day as the light was almost done;  
At night he came to his carpenter's shed  
To finish a coffin for some one dead;

His lantern fell on the sulphur face  
Of a stranger of some alien race  
And the dead lips bubbled or seemed to say:  
"Me poor Parsee from me home, Bombay."

Joseph Leiter the dead man put  
In the coffin; the lid he shut.  
Thus to his wife his pity ran:  
"They'll steal a coffin who steal a man!"

Two days passed and the dead forgot,  
Light one night was in Leiter's cot;  
Soft he looked and the dead man stood  
Out in his kitchen cooking food.

Thinking he saw a ghost or witch,  
Leiter's heart had a deadly twitch:  
"*Guebre fire*," did the dead man say,  
"*Ormuzd raised me! Parsee. Bombay.*"

Panther men through the window pane  
Watched the Parsee living again:  
"Where is he?" they asked his host.  
"He is dead and ye saw his ghost."

In his coffin at noon they saw  
Him still dead who had found no law;  
In the churchyard his pit was dug,  
He had swallowed a second drug.

Their dead neighbor the clods immerse,  
While on the undertaker's hearse  
O'er the mountain, the midnight through,  
Leiter drove with the dark Hindoo.

Still in the West the dusk of night  
Covered the vale from the mountain's height;  
Gettysburg in its East repose  
Bloomed with the sunrise like a rose.



Rose from stupor the tranc'd Parsee ;  
Worshipp'd the sun on his bended knee ;  
Cooled in the West his eyeball far,  
Shuddering, "*Ahriman ! SLAVERY ! WAR ! —*"

Bathed in the summit's springs with bliss,  
Gave unto Leiter a freeman's kiss,  
Slipped a ruby his finger upon  
Saying "*Keep it for little son !*"

"Nay," spoke Leiter, whose greed was strong,  
"We have treated a stranger wrong.  
You that are risen like Lazarus  
Owe no present, like that, to *us !*"

Putting the jewel back in his hair,  
Gorgeously glowing a planet there,  
The Parsee like a Prince did say :  
"*Iran will give to thy son, BOMBAY !*

"I have seen where the inland seas  
Drop in the West like our great Ganges  
Into thy Hindostan of wheat,  
Where shall arise Calcutta's seat ;

"Send thy son to that infant mart !  
Teach him the Parsee's merchant art !  
He shall beget one beautiful !  
*She* shall marry the Great Mogul ! "

There they parted but back, anon,  
Leiter bending above his son,  
Little fingers felt in his hair,  
Clutching a ruby tangled there.

"This was meant for our baby's dower;  
That dark man was a man of power:  
With the jewel the boy shall grow,  
Lighted by wisdom to Chicago!"

Long but sure was the infant's fate;  
He was a merchant where trade was great;  
From his life like a lance's sheen,  
Grew a daughter that looked a queen.

She was loved by a statesman wise, —  
Mighty India was his prize  
Millions held in the famine's sway  
Knelt as she landed at Bombay.

Tall and fair from her hair to her feet  
She was saluted: "Lady of wheat!  
Spirit of bread! as we die we pray  
Be our white lily, Queen of Bombay!"

But the bride of the Viceroy sees  
One, most agèd of the Parsees,  
Piping to her like the croon of the wind,  
"Lady of Leitersburg! Ruby of Ind!"

"Red as the ruby thy veins they wave  
Through the star'd midnight where groped the  
white slave!  
Thou and thy country are messaged with light!  
Day of the Guebre! Freedom from Night!"

## JACOB GRUBER

1819

SALLY HOWARD, Sally *Gruber*, dat one nigger  
left to you

Makes me seem so inconsistent! Lawyers named  
her—she is *Sue*!

When I glaze and paint de parsonage boys in  
Fred'rick going past

Yells at me, "Presiding Elder, has you bought a  
soul at last?"

Well! For de Redeemed de devil sets a woman  
in his trap

And I loved you, Sally Gruber, with your nigger  
in your lap.

When I said, "Emancipate her! Set her free and  
say good-bye,"

Then you and that nigger Susan hugged each  
other for to cry.

I had said to dem soul drivers what de gospe  
bade me tell

When at Hogeboom's woods I thundered "Slavery  
is part of Hell!"

Then dey bound me over, Sally, for de court at  
Hagerstown

I de venue moved to Fred'rick; was acquitted  
with renown.

Lawyer Taney spoke two hundred dollars' worth  
of eloquence,

For I paid de money to him, two years' hire for  
my defence,  
Jury, people, Methodism, patted Gruber on de  
back:  
Lord amercy! Here in Frederick I must own dat  
gal so black!

If I was agin a blacksmith, people at me would  
not hoot,  
Shoeing horses with my nigger, both of us as  
black as soot;  
But as Freedom's whitest hero, Susan in my  
servitude,  
Nigger-buyers yell behind me: "Gruber by him-  
self is *Sued!*"

Like de richest men in Fred'rick if uncurrent  
bills I shave  
Then dey call me "Jacob Greedy dat has married  
Sally's slave."  
But de Book Concern expects me for dem books  
at par to pay,  
And to get back lawyer's money I can find no  
other way.

When I feed de oats I carry, my necessity to fit,  
To my critter at the roadside, sinners call me  
"Hypocrite."  
Tavern keepers twit me, saying, "He's converted  
mighty good, —  
Preacher owning of a nigger and too stingy to  
buy food!"

I was sharp myself at scooting veils, high bonnets,  
coffee, tea,  
Dogs and canes, campmeeting courting: now dey  
throw dem up to me.  
Vendues scattered when dey saw me in my drab  
and broad brim come,  
Now de asses call me "Balaam," saying "Cuss us  
Slavery some!"

Your blue eyes and pious beauty touched me in a  
tender cord,  
And like Abraham in Egypt where King Pharaoh  
was Lord,  
I did call you "Sister Sarah," never thinking  
what would be:  
Love decoyed me in your image to bow down to  
Slavery.

Could I know de slave's affection Freedom's gift  
would be above  
And within de house of bondage Hagar stay for  
Sarah's love?  
Love, excuse our inconsistence! Love has put us  
all astray.  
Call de handmaid in, my Sarah, and we three will  
kneel and pray.

## MAGRUDER

MAGRUDER was our foemen's name,  
They won my seat and youthful fame  
And drove me from the public aim;  
O how my father, tawny, fierce,

On my swift downfall was a brooder!  
As lightning doth a black cloud pierce  
He flashed "Farewell, my son — Magruder!"

Betwixt our houses, forkèd, sleek,  
Spread into bays a salty creek,  
And rival neighbors still must speak;  
My father foxed and rioted,  
Took hand and cup with each intruder,  
But in his laugh was something dead  
At greeting each fair-haired Magruder.

Meantime the law I learned to plead  
And in a distant place succeed,  
I took a wife of different creed  
And my deep temper like a monk  
I strove to alter when I wooed her,  
Till of the chalice as I drunk  
I said "Communion with Magruder!"

My mother fled and sought my side  
And sighed unto me as she died  
"Dear son! have not thy father's pride!"  
In holy ground I had her laid,  
The Jesuits would not exclude her, —  
Hard poverty came to my aid  
And in my cares I lost — Magruder.

High handed was our Irish race;  
I won our old colonial place  
By tricking of the populace.  
In the State Senate, thorough willed,  
I led my party like a Tudor

Till came a sound, "Thy father killed  
In lust and choler young — Magruder!"

He slew the boy beside his board,  
Into his breast he drove a sword,  
Because a child they both adored;

Magruder's heart was young and bright,  
My sire was gloomier and ruder,

He fled for hoary shame by night  
And on his hearth expired Magruder.

The old man died of black despair  
Hard by me in a mountain lair, —  
A faithful slave hid with him there

And in his garden him interred:  
No printer to it was alluder;

The old plantations only heard  
That by our name was slain Magruder.

Magruder's race died of chagrin;

They got no justice for their kin.

I grew more humble for our sin

Till came my time when high in station

I leaped, an unknown interluder,

And wrung the withers of the nation  
And trembled for the sound — "Magruder."

I brought a wail from ruined trade

As from the homicidal blade, —

O had Magruder's buried shade

Told but his tale I had been ended,

My furious race's last concluder!

To solemn heights I still ascended  
And crossed myself to lay Magruder.

The paroxysm left me long,  
But party frenzy, deadly strong,  
Lured my old age to human wrong;  
    I smote the helpless from my height  
As in my father's frosty *pudeur* :  
    The world cried out in my despite,  
But not a raven croaked "Magruder!"

Five years and forty since the crime  
Had left me but a wrinkled mime.  
To seal that record old with grime  
    I wrote my life, I passed it bland  
To one who would still be excluder  
    Of that which would my pandect brand  
And on my statue write "Magruder."

Then in that Jesuit's guarded spot  
Wherein my father's grave was not,  
I thought his shade would be forgot  
    That I would be beyond the crowd  
My secret knowing no obtruder :  
    I quit my coffin in my shroud —  
The tombstones next me spelled "*Magruder*."

There do they stand in pallid white.  
They see my spectre every night  
And balk my purgatorial flight :  
    "Justice!" they cry, "thou, Justice Chief!  
Thy fame was won as a deluder!  
    Thy neighbor's life took like a thief  
Stands in thy court of death, — Magruder!"

FREDERICK, MD., AUGUST 30, 1898.



ROSCOE CONKLING

THE peevish school exclaims,  
 That thy return so gladdens great New York !  
 These spiteful leaders make us miss the more  
 One man of lofty mark ;

One young man yet sincere,  
 Whose scorn is scorn and his affection sweet,  
 Whose mind was never humbled to the crowd,  
 Nor cowered by defeat ;

Who thinks exalted things,  
 And typifies the Empire of our State  
 His brain amidst the atmosphere of kings,  
 And strong among the great ;

For such New York forgives  
 His manly frailties in the love of her,  
 Her pride contented while a statesman lives  
 To be her Senator.

No lobby Warwick made  
 This royal nature to be bought and sold,  
 His honors never were the gains of trade,  
 Nor compliments of gold.

He walked to our respect,  
 Nor crept and courted like a devious dog ;  
 His forehead bore the sign of one elect,  
 Beyond the demagogue.

In his inherent strength  
 Of classic mind and national intent,

All schools and parties sought the leader out,  
Within his argument.

There shall he shine a star,  
When baying foes and envious presses cease,  
His record gallant in the time of war,  
And gentlest after peace.

1876.

### TO JAMES A. GARFIELD

#### A PROPHECY

THOU who did'st ride on Chickamauga's day,  
All solitary down the fiery line,  
And saw the ranks of battle rusty shine,  
Where grand old Thomas held them from dismay,  
Regret not now, while meaner pageants play  
Their brief campaigns against the best of men!  
For those spent balls of scandal pass their way,  
And thou shalt see the victory again.  
Modest and faithful, though these broken lines  
Of party reel and thine own honor bleeds,  
That mole is blind which Garfield undermines,  
That dart falls short which hired malice speeds,  
That man will stay whose place the State assigns,  
And whose high mind a mighty people needs.

1874.

### R. B. HAYES

THE silent taker of abuse  
Not friendless proves when death, as still,  
Takes him into the camp of truce  
And beats the taps on good and ill;

Soldier, who did life's work fulfil,  
    However compromised by fame !  
The sunny world respects thy end,  
    The states united speak thy name,  
The soldiery thy grave attend,  
    And wives of gentles do the same,  
To join thee to the beauteous mold  
    Who waits her bridegroom in that wood,  
Where but the good denotes the bold,  
    And all of beauty is the good.

## ANDREW JOHNSON

THEY who in Northern hamlets drew  
    The warrior breath of freedom in,  
The Southrons' struggle little knew —  
That obdurate and sturdy few  
    Whose feet were set against their kin,

Who for the Union sought the hills  
    And lived like hunted things of prey ;  
In household feud and civil ills  
That put to test their iron wills —  
    Those renegadoes held their way.

Tall, bony men of Irish stock,  
    And local loves that bound them fast,  
The Union only was their rock,  
And like the pines they stood the shock  
    And grew the tougher for the blast.

The fife and drum they did not hear  
    That mustered millions to resist ;

The State's command, high and austere,  
Reached not their mountain atmosphere ;  
The Nation's roar alone they list.

But peace renewed a hundred ties  
The Northern statesmen never feel :  
Traditions steadfast as the skies,  
That slowly fade among the wise,  
And wounds of pride that slowly heal.

No negro was the mountaineer  
Whose freedom was his fathers' spoil —  
What time they mustered with Sevier —  
He felt himself the planter's peer,  
And nothing servile for his toil.

Yet rights like his, with blood bequeathed,  
Were now the bondsman's easy prize ;  
For this his willing sword unsheathed,  
The peon's brow with bays had wreathed —  
Himself, his brood the sacrifice.

So Andrew Johnson's neighbors spoke,  
And half their sullenness was his ;  
He was a man of lowly folk,  
And restive under every yoke,  
Except the yoke of prejudice.

He governed men from that estate  
Of humble birth and old neglect  
When on his tailor's bench he sate,  
And, sewing, mused on man and fate  
And tyranny of caste and sect.

Still in his soul the phrases clung  
His wife from ancient charters read ;  
They grew inspired upon his tongue,  
And to the hills his challenge rung,  
And unto Fame the echoes led.

One grand invective was his life,  
But rounded yet by reverence ;  
His one superior was his wife,  
His route to power only strife,  
His egotism ne'er pretence.

The slavery he hated most  
Was slavery of the freeborn mind ;  
The freedom that he made his boast  
Was not a sentimental toast,  
But freedom for his white mankind ;

And honest hands made courage sure,  
Thrift grew on blessed penury ;  
A Congress mighty but impure,  
In freedom's plea, could not endure  
This lonely man of Tennessee.

The subtler Lincoln suckled still  
A poor white Southern mother's breast ;  
So freedom chose to work her will,  
One ruler from the Southern hill,  
Another from the prairie West.

And freedom came from such as these,  
Who felt the slavery they broke ;  
Not from scholastic halls of ease,  
Not from the dreamy Eastern seas,  
But from the hovel and the yoke.

1870.

## WILLIAM H. SEWARD

SON of New York ! sit thou amongst us daily  
Where all go by,  
And Broadway's currents meet and flow most gayly  
In our bright sky !  
Reveal that pen whose hidden work was greater  
Than cannon's roar,  
And boyish brow, the placid agitator  
Of times of yore !

Sit with thy books, thou man of gentle story !  
There is no heaven  
For thee, unless the clangor of its glory  
Shall have their leaven ;  
Not on the sword, the ermine, or the gavel  
Thy farewell look,  
Thou rounded life's adventures with a travel,  
And made a book.

And from thy closest thoughts of power departed,  
Like eagles freed,  
And distant foemen saw a lion-hearted  
Hero indeed.  
Domestic traitors held thy life abhorrent,  
Thy name a spell,  
And still the spring that fed the swelling torrent  
Was but a cell.

Child of the State, whose sceneries imposing  
Are like its acts —  
The storm upon its lakes and mountains dozing  
And cataracts —

Thine was the pen that clove the war's disorder  
    With our decree,  
And wrote on history the Godlike order :  
    Let man be free !

Not in a general's dress, a sword and tassels,  
    Thou greet'st the age,  
Like one who came to free another's vassals  
    By might of rage ;  
But in the simple vesture of thy neighbors,  
    With book and pen,  
A tired lawyer resting from his labors,  
    And citizen.

There where the crowds of every nation haunt thee  
    And ne'er desist,  
Cosmopolite or pioneer, we plant thee,  
    Thou optimist !  
Thy mind as various as the race of people  
    Thy heart foresaw ;  
Thy lesson loftier than the Christian steeple —  
    A Higher law !

Son of New York ! sit thou amongst us daily  
    Where all go by,  
And Broadway's currents meet and flow most gayly  
    In our bright sky ;  
Reveal that pen whose hidden work was greater  
    Than cannon's roar,  
And boyish brow, the placid agitator  
    Of times of yore !

## “USED UP VAN”

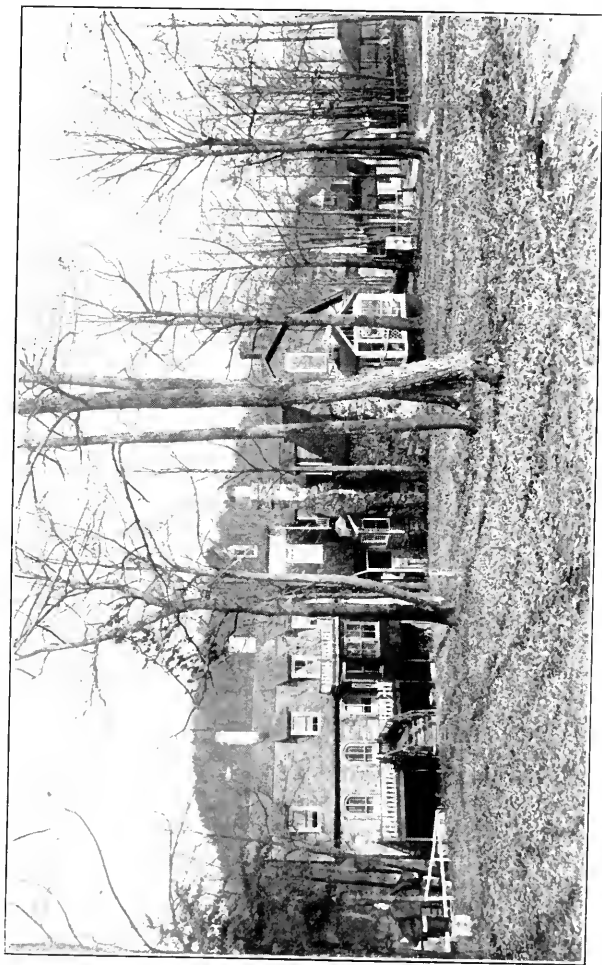
“WE three will make our New Year call  
Upon Van Buren after night,  
When lonesome in his palace hall  
Turned out the people and the light!  
Seward is master in New York,  
The banks are broke, the wealthy beg;  
We'll find the President a stork  
Dozing upon a single leg.”

Webster and Clay picked up Calhoun  
To comfort Van in his despair,  
The White House bathing in the moon  
Ducked in its brand new *porte cochère*.  
The well-known trio passed the door,  
Their echoes chased them in the gloom,  
And on the Turkey carpet floor  
They tip-toed to the great East Room.

“He's lost in space, a bumble bee,”  
Growled Webster, “rising less and less!”  
“His Independent Treasury”  
Quoth Clay, “is hollow emptiness.”  
“He lies in my usurpèd bed  
Beside my bride in damnèd doom,”  
Calhoun, the blue-lit Hamlet, said  
And rapped like death upon a tomb.

Light, laugh and shout burst through the door:  
Along the parlor's grand extent





GAPLAND DEN AND LIBRARY, FROM THE SOUTH



Playing at leap-frog on the floor  
They saw the ruined President ;  
His grown-up sons along the row  
Made him, another playmate, stoop,  
And o'er his bald head winged with snow  
They jumped their father with a whoop.

Son Abram's Carolina bride,  
Angelica, just out of school,  
Was laughing “fit to split her side”  
To see the great man play the fool.  
Martin and John, like heralds stern,  
Kept parent Martin on the run,  
And made him leap-frog in his turn  
And saw that he leaped every one.

“Good friends,” the President exclaimed,  
“These boys their mother left to me ;  
I promised not to be ashamed  
Ever to keep their company ;  
To keep them and myself so young  
And of each other ever fond,  
That when our worldly pride was stung  
Our fireside would not have despond.

“My wife my schoolmate cousin was ;  
These youngsters are my cousins, too.  
You will not find them frivolous  
When there are harder things to do.  
Good-natured Dutch, within our roost  
We keep up holidays with rout,  
I play with them as mother used, —  
They will not leave their father out.”

“This is the secret of his court,”  
Said Webster. “Let us learn his joys!  
We were too solemn for the sport:  
He practiced leaping with the boys.  
Take off your coats, Calhoun and Clay!  
And take a lesson how to leap!  
We’ll jump Saint Martin yet some day  
Who plays the boy when we’re asleep.”

WITH GREELEY AT RICHMOND

MAY 18, 1872

At Rocketts’ pier the bugles blow,  
The clattering horsemen ride,  
And squadrons wheel with naked steel  
By James’s peaceful tide,  
And up the stones of Richmond town  
The column files at will,  
As if a traitor rode to die  
Up Tower or Tyburn hill.

A poor old man, grey-haired and bent,  
Amongst the troopers rides;  
He sees the captured capital  
O’erlooking floods and tides,  
Where, in his power, the standards blew,  
Unfurled at his command,  
That waved in sight of Washington,  
And dyed the Rio Grande.

Now silently the people peer  
Who used to cheer his name,

As if it were a time of fear,  
And his were all the blame;  
They soon forget both fame and power  
Who but disaster win,  
And he who ruled, an Empire's chief,  
Must make his jail an inn.

They bring him to the traitor's court,—  
This old and broken man;  
And e'en the judge looks down in grudge,  
Like any partisan.  
The lawyers wait to tell his crimes,  
The jury hate, forewarned, —  
By heaven! it is a fearful thing  
To see a strong man scorned!

Then one stepped out from all the throng,  
And said: "This must not be!  
My pen which wrote his cause unjust,  
Shall write his liberty.  
On yonder hill the grass is green —  
With pleasant spring's increase,  
So green be all the fields of war,  
And all our duty Peace.

"Ye dare not test him lest he 'scape;  
Ye shall not keep him pent;  
Each foe stands now a citizen,  
A flock for every tent;  
Let kindly law again prevail,  
And victory do no crime,  
For hand in hand we twain must walk  
Down all the paths of time!"

They marvelled much who loved him not,  
This quaint old man to see,  
Whose name the planters' children knew,  
An ancient enemy ;  
And though some mocked his loving zeal  
With many a coarse retort,  
He made the rebel chieftain feel  
The North had still a heart !

### IRVING AT BURR'S TRIAL

1807

My Rip Van Winkle twenty years asleep  
I see reversed with Colonel Burr come down,—  
Youth, startling these long-haired Virginians.  
The Cainish outlaw of New York is here  
A Jesus in the temple, routing doctors :  
How masterful serene ! how lustrous eyed !  
Delight of women ! linnet of the cage ! —  
Fresh are the species of America !  
I threaded Europe lately with the pang,  
“I must return,” but this is wonderful.  
And yon Chief Justice is Praxiteles  
Gazing on Phryne, the stripp'd courtesan,  
Whom he means to acquit for loveliness.  
I marvel not my brothers were for Burr ;  
I, mourning Hamilton, compassionate  
This beauteous heifer which did gore his life,  
Gentle but in her bovine period.  
That deer-split hoof, his hand, did fire the shot  
Which emptied nature of Minerva's child :  
The sons of God were yet like Aaron Burr,

Daughters of men these freakish Jeffersons.

Men say he ruins women : women never  
Have thrown a stone at Burr, their Antony.  
His fawns were white. His sacerdotal touch,  
Like Eli's sons, was holy to his dupes, —  
Heir of the Eleusinian mysteries.

Treason or misdemeanor his offenses ?  
Ridiculous alternatives, i' faith !  
Treason is levying War against Us only :  
Yon Randolph, Burr's defender, breathed it so,  
Gouverneur Morris phrased it thus exact :  
Virginia's limitation, New York's words.  
Burr is but traitor to Virginia's cockloft  
And each one there than he more traitorous :  
Madison wrote Secession Resolutions,  
Monroe deliverèd our flag to France,  
Randolph betrayed us from the cabinet,  
This Wilkinson is in the pay of Spain,  
And Jefferson plotted the Excise war.  
Burr, driven away by their conspiracy,  
Drew from the times the filibuster's dream, —  
Miranda's, Rogers Clarke's, Eaton's and Lewis's, —  
To speed our destiny before its ripeness  
In the indefinite Hispanian waste,  
His febrile fancy fired by Bonaparte  
And the bright recollections of his youth  
In martial camps these coistrils never joined.  
Long will that West the hunted stag allure.  
It is Imagination's substitute  
For the fenced Paradise of cherubims  
Whose swords on none but their fall'n equals  
flame :

Hark to the British cannon off Virginia! —  
 Our sailors' shrieks!<sup>1</sup> O for one hour of Burr  
 And Hamilton!

Twig now yon other Randolph  
 Who brought in the indictment! 'Tis high treason  
 With him to be born anywhere but here:  
 He looks the snipe with railing faculties  
 Run lean, — a skeleton in excitation.  
 John Wickham of Long Island, bred to arms  
 At Arras, France, o'er-matches William Wirt,  
 Co-amateur with me in lightsome Letters,  
 Who has the heavy vividness of armor.  
 The treatment for this trial is humor:  
 A cat fight in one's party brought to bar.  
 Our Constitution makes theology.  
 That curser is one Jackson, Tennessean,  
 Who would not vote respect to Washington  
 And now damns Madison, — an Almohadè.  
 What height is in that Scott, the fledgling lawyer!  
 He's out of Amadis de Gaul; if years  
 Are sold by inches he'll outlast us all.  
 Virginia's genius in its women lies,  
 Their love of pleasure not their men's indulgence:  
 How lovely were those shoulders at the ball!  
 And every sylph for Burr but no *man* for him.

Two lawyers here are drunk by early morning.  
 There is old Callender, the libeller,  
 Diogenes in his newspaper tub,  
 Wherein he wallows, gnashes and snuffs plunder,  
 And yet I like him better than this Ritchie,  
 The vaunted genius of his occupation,

<sup>1</sup> Firing on the *Chesapeake* Frigate.



Who like Marat learned medicine to torture  
And has a narrow controversial soul.  
This city rules by him newspaper-mongers  
And he is edited by Jefferson.  
'Tis dissipation of *belles lettres* minds  
To excel in these midnight exhalations.  
The rainbow 'twixt Newspaper and Letters  
Is broke in mid air; I'll find the far end;  
It may be long or never, but my mind  
Shall not be a slave driver's with my quill,  
Nor in opinion-fact'ries pewtered out!

The prosecution is the President,  
Who learned his passions in the sects of France,  
Wrathful for liberty that in Robespierre,  
The smug and incorrupt, destroyed his kind.  
Few are not spoiled whom Europe magnifies,  
Yet is our politics all European, —  
Philology of accusations fetched  
To plague plain stay-at-homes like Washington :  
Democrat, Monarchist, Aristocrat, —  
Words mighty in the foreign tourists' pride.  
The name that bless'd me and the Chief whose  
hand

Was raised above me in my nurse's arms  
Will stand with Cæsar's when these tribunes fade.  
*He* never would have scoured the coasts for Burr  
And dragged him hither through so many States  
To try him in the tyrant's local province,  
Indicted by his cousin. Not ere long  
This slayer did preside upon the trial  
Of a high Justice and this grand juror  
Did curse the Senate which would not convict :

Now Jeffrey's circuit moves to Richmond town,  
But yon loose-jointed Judge has in his orbs  
The mighty globe and Richmond is his throne.  
Who knows what Revolutions may rise here?  
What slavery President like Burr from jail  
Be brought to crave his bail and find his Portia?  
Then this *Roi Petion*, hunted to the caves,  
Saved from the executioner by wolves,  
Will be the sign of mercy shining down.

Petion's Madame Roland there I see,  
Burr's matron daughter. Blennerhassett's wife  
Was in Queen Theodosia's silver crown  
As in her father's sword hilt. Why had fate  
Mismatched so? Burr married with his mother,  
Theodosia, her son, and that one with  
An idiot. Burr needed a fine woman  
And made her of his child but on illusions  
Wasted their substance. 'Tis a gypsy court!  
Jefferson's comely daughter I have seen,  
Who sought to be a nun in lawless Paris.  
All these are finer women than in France  
Around the *condottieri* Emperor.  
Could faction run its length these ladies might  
Go to a guillotine. Their stay is Burr,  
*Lex scripta* and the plain colonial thought.

In climate Liberty refrigerates;  
This summer heat made deadly by strong drink  
And carnal by the Slavery around it,  
Will soon relinquish to the Northern star  
Direction, as the constellations do.

In some day not too far, Literature

Will sit upon the chaos of these presses  
And soften partisans to courtesy.  
Our area is like the field of stars:  
The more they be the light is more diffused,  
The wider radiance soothes mankind to peace,  
And woman's softness, paramount at night,  
Her prejudices drowsy in her realm,  
Will draw the soul of strife to love and rest.  
Yon golden West will govern in its prime,  
With mildness known not to old colonies  
Ripped from the civil wars and Bible-cracked.  
Then Liberty's haranguers need not scream;  
'Twill be the nature of the fertile sea  
Of land and woodlands and the snow-warmed lakes;  
Men will roam free and sociable as cattle  
Which in their increase drive the bisons back.  
Faint in that mellow sunset may appear  
Among the bars of music one, far down,  
Leaning on earth: the Crime of Aaron Burr.

## OAK HILL

1893

WHERE through the Hog Back Mountain knots  
the Goose creek's two arms wind  
Stands on a knoll a portico with its plain house  
behind,  
A portico that faces South in Doric columns lined.  
On segment arches this tall porch wide as the  
house expands

And holds a Grecian order up in its columnar  
hands,

With one eye in its pediment winked on the  
templar's lands.

The stiff, square house with chimneys four to  
lowly wings descends

And in the rear it has its door as if for humble  
friends ;

In front o'er double drawing-rooms that portico  
portends.

A hall that clips the little wings the two square  
parlors airs

And adds a state solemnity for balls and feasts  
and stairs

But to that rostrum portico the whole house  
gives its cares.

Here, one would think, some rustic man lived  
in his home, snug, slow,

Until he had a public call to come in front and  
show

And then he showed another man in that great  
portico.

Monroe, the last Virginia chief, here spent his  
funds and age,

His Northern wife died in the jowl of this sad  
hermitage,

The portico his former hut took into patronage.

He was a politician's flower, raised from a common  
weed,

Fit for no enterprise in life but following to lead:  
To watch the great and imitate, to listen and succeed.

Mount Vernon, Monticello and Montpelier temples show —

Wide land and Cincinnatian rest, sageness and portico,

So all he had into Oak Hill put President Monroe.

Some few weak apprehensive years from public pay's release,

He took the only office left, a justice of the peace,  
And then the sheriff took his peace and he took his surcease.

As in this lofty portico his form plebeian bent  
He wound beneath the porticoes of every high event  
As the Virginia creeper scales the Doric shaft's ascent.

With timid men he passed for brash, with bold men for a worm,

He was a soldier on the staff proved by his uniform ;

He set the lines at Bladensburg and braved a thunderstorm.

Confederate Congressman, he bored that system to its doom ;

Opposed the Constitution since some other State might bloom ;

But when his Senator was dead stepped in his shoes and room.

There bully for his State's cabal he set domestic  
slur

On Hamilton, above the State the golden minister,  
But bared the soldier's pervious place to single-  
combat Burr.

To France he went in room of Burr whom he had  
undermined

And with the bloody Jacobin's our tender streamers  
twined,

Then hurled a book at Washington, for voters in-  
terlined.

The dying chief Virginia stung with "*Governor*  
*Monroe*,"

His weakling face inspired the slaves such tool to  
overthrow,

Virginia sent him back to France annoyances to  
sow.

He saw upon the river Seine his country's steamer  
ride,

With Livingston's and Fulton's famès he wrote  
his name beside,

Abortive treaties ever made and nowhere did  
abide.

But as the Brahmins may revere the sacerdotal  
cow

Virginians ever kept him place beneath their feed-  
ing mow

And with the heifers of his chief he drave a sub-  
soil plough;

Measured Virginia's mites beside the giants of his  
view, —  
The Nelsons, Pitts and Bonapartes the world of  
physics grew, —  
And empire-hearted men at home by later knowl-  
edge knew.

The faction feared their sharpened tool, his hardier  
address,  
He knew their differential arts and shaken selfish-  
ishness,  
And practiced on a wider range an easier success.

He ruled the land by men of stuff in all his  
cabinet,  
Enlarged the state and in array its weak defenses  
set,  
But plagued himself with cavilling, infirmity and  
fret.

High policies he fought against and called them  
by his name,  
Looked ever on where he might lean or, failing,  
next might blame ;  
When every opposition ceased, no veneration  
came.

Lamenting powers he did not have when all but  
he so willed,  
He saw not slavery's blighting spread while free-  
dom throve and tilled  
And Marshall's genius shone abroad to strengthen  
and to build.

Here to Oak Hill old Lafayette with Quincy  
Adams came  
On wretched roads in bankrupt times to company  
but tame,  
The host was trouble-borrowing and lobbying his  
claim.

Unto John Adams' frosty child Kentucky passed  
the key,  
Virginia's nation-hearted son locked out her  
dynasty,  
And force with lictors came behind,—the sheik  
of Tennessee.

Perfect the classic portico takes in its hollow ken  
The sheeplands where, in warlike times, by night  
rode Mosby's men,  
The Bull Run mountains' sapphire blue and Little  
River's glen.

Towàrd Potomac, Goose creek falls through locks  
of old canals,  
Telling of public spirit spent for counties and  
cabals;  
The grim old mills at Oatlands grind their drowsy  
madrigals.

Fertile and noble rolls the land and, watered like  
to France,  
With kine and horses plentiful and sparse inhabi-  
tants;  
The white pike road beneath the ridge shines like  
a flashing lance.



But naught is here of that old man who reared  
his portico ;  
Richmond that made him has his bones where  
James's rapids flow ;  
The spirit of his Northern wife the Fortress of  
Monroe.

His western States he never loved, marched o'er  
his mountain's bar,  
On roads he vetoed, to his forts made for defensive  
war ;  
Free millions flout o'er Africa the faint Monrovia  
star.

New York, Virginia's conqueror, received him,  
debtor-spent ;  
Fourth of July, his dying day, scarce felt the  
slight event ;  
No man has read his manuscript on balanced gov-  
ernment.

His jockey son-in-law awhile Oak Hill inhabited,  
Defaulter in official life to sanctuary fled ;  
No ghosts are in the portico ; the tedious are the  
dead.

Contractors city horses breed in Monroe's stables,  
where  
He demonstrated country hearts of cities must  
beware ;  
Over his mutton modern men his waste of land  
unswear.

The sacrifice he did not try; the means he did not  
    prove;  
The shiftless motive principle that only seems to  
    move;  
The office-getting for itself: these bankrupt power  
    and love.

He saw the people as they were by mean self-  
    measurement,  
Rivals his mediocrity preferring for descent,  
And wore the nation's patience out to furious  
    discontent.

Few pilgrims come to see his shrine, the few who  
    come less know;  
The whip-poor-will's inquiring cry is answered by  
    Echo,  
Within the hollow stories of the pillared portico.

Pale order! to neglected lands your Greek ex-  
    pression give  
Of Academic genius and freedom formative!  
So perfect stands the portico its spirit still must  
    live.

### JOHN QUINCY ADAMS' DIARY

1779-1848,

LAD! I overlap thy life with mine;  
Art thou curious, prying and revering?  
Lift the lid, — the coffin be not fearing!  
Within my Koran book my prophet's bones calcine.

Three score and ten of years I drew bow line  
And shot my arrows into friend and foe ;  
Gather them as the Indian by his bow  
And arrows lies ! Nothing will I refine !  
What for the day seemed true the sun marked so,  
And before night's small prayer I wrote not liber-  
tine.

A barbarous age encaged me for its king,  
Its captive eagle silenced by its vote,  
Each night I pulled a feather from my wing  
And dipped it in my cage-chilled blood and wrote.  
For thine eye, boy, did I in slavery snatch  
Moments of years to trace the dull events :  
Judge thou my book when thou shalt read its match  
Writ by another of thy Presidents !

## TO EDMUND C. STEDMAN

THY pipe clear, cogent, summoning, I heard  
Like the long locust's trill, when I was young,  
Halting but not dissonant with the bird,  
A louder chanson on a thrilling tongue ;  
Current occurrence poetry became  
In thy sweet glottis and thou didst not fear :  
I list thy pibroch after years the same  
And find thee sweeter as I come more near.  
Thy Muse doth balance while thy wants take ramble  
On Wall Street's deafening and deadly way,  
Like him who walked the wire with many a gambol,  
Along the foam line of Niagara.  
Thy foot is on Apollo's lyre-strung air ;  
I know where thou art by a rainbow there.

E. R. T.

APRIL 13, 1897 <sup>1</sup>

BLIND, seeing, dead: good night, Elizabeth!  
Thou didst not see and slipped on holy ground.  
Thy sight restored thou sawest falsehood's death  
And owned thy slip though ever bled thy wound.  
Death! Thou art Saviour to all women found  
In nature's field! Thou writest in the dust  
And draw'st them to thee in repentance sound  
When priests and congregations stone their trust!  
In that great day when graves give up and must  
All shames be owned, matron! Thou wilt be wise  
Who faced the world and out by it was thrust  
To stand with Magdalen in Paradise;  
Aye! and with Mary of supernal fame  
Whom Heaven o'ershadowed ere it overcame.

## JOSHUA

THE Shemite's roving eye is keen from his tent,  
He sees the obvious and speaks sentiment;  
His nation a brood under Israel's hem  
He knew but one city, Jerusalem.

Enter the Roman with world-wide polity! —  
"Believe what ye will but be subject to me!"  
As from the rushes had Moses pedigree,  
Joshua, the straw-born, thought in poetry:

"Freer this sun the strangers' helmets flash,  
Happy Israel whose creeds no longer clash!

<sup>1</sup> Totally blind, recovered her full sight. Died. — *Report*.

Gentiles we hated have stricken off our clogs,  
Nobler are mankind than the harsh synagogues !”

That sublimation like a blowing seed  
Fell in the furrow that was smoking to breed :  
Rome had oped the world with her ploughshare feet,  
Joshua went forth and sowed it with bright wheat.

Moralizing without labor is disease.  
Catch-cure-workers snare themselves in mysteries.  
Agitation agitates sweet sleep away.  
Science lay not with the Jew nor Joshua.

The ghost tales creep in the blood of conquerors.  
A sure church ever toleration abhors.  
Little miracles his followers must see,  
And Jove's fatherhood vouch for democracy.

Superstitions strove and his girl head was bowed,  
Tears came between him and the simple crowd,  
Winds, understood not, whispered from the sky  
Imaginations of the old Genii.

Youth is the quickening, age the mummifying,  
Youth thinks of loving and age thinks of dying :  
Joshua, distempered, counted life a loss,  
The beauty of the lilies droops at his cross.

When we know nothing of our own planet's plan,  
Fancy must prophesy and priest dream for man,  
Joshua who loved the Earth, his one pet bird,  
Never to his singing mate has since said word.

Stubborn idolatry mistakes all it can.  
Jew-named Christians burnt alive their fellow-man.

Science with miracles to shame sorcery  
Bent to the Roman priest the pagan-freed knee.

Japhet in the West took Physics for his mate  
And she nursed him like the wolf the twins of state,  
Walled her Europe with the towers that suns descry,  
Felt her hemispheres of breasts the globe's augury.

Arsenalled her arms with chemistry's retorts,  
Made old Rome her polity, chivalry her forts ;  
States gave stability to tribes' disarray :  
Europe for poetry set up Joshua ;

Fought for his grave and his peasantry set high,  
Put his brethren in its shields of victory ;  
Joshua's living type they banished and slew :  
Europe took the Jewish and enslaved the Jew.

Wider than Joshua, Spinoza loved Space,  
In his matter-loving thought all worlds had grace ;  
Socialistic Joshuas a new earth drew  
But the church of Joshua rejected Jew.

We have with us Joshua perfectly new  
In the juvenescence of each sanguine Jew,  
In his friendly vehemence, Shemite to brim,  
But the doors of Japhet's race are shut to him.

He, in Joshua's delight, hails the events,  
His disbanded nationhood to all presents,  
Drives his golden wedge into Japhet's schism  
Profiting honestly by his optimism.

Joshuas arrogate anarchistic powers,  
Build themselves no sepulchre but lie in ours ;

Joshua, pastoral, preaches and roams,  
Turning mobs against the genius of homes ;

Rails at society that taketh providence  
As the roving Arabs hate Yemen's defense,  
Hates the riches that refine and in us dwell  
For the riches that o'erburden Ishmael.

Joshua pushes hard as if earth were slow,  
And he *imperium in imperio* ;  
Unto him as Cæsar's coin we render odds,  
But refuse to his assault the things of Gods.

Joshua never sought Kepler's wonder laws :  
Sentimental, sensuous, effect and cause  
Unto him were platitudes : genius wild,  
He is reigning and will reign, the little child.

## RALSTON

HE who attempts too much success  
And frets his destiny,  
Shall like Napoleon find an isle  
Or Ralston find a sea.

Yet in the loss of so much power  
The generous world must weep,  
As when some battlemented tower  
Falls down a lofty steep.

Roll ocean on the golden gate  
With thrice thy usual sound !  
There's nothing left of mortal state  
Like him that thou hast drowned.

## MEMMINGER'S LIFE

(SECRETARY OF CONFEDERATE TREASURY)

1875

FLYING from Napoleon,  
Flying to Calhoun,  
Little Wurtemburger !  
'T was Cæsar to Mahoun.  
To one you were a conscript,  
Cipher in t'other's eye ;  
One would unify you,  
One would nullify.

O, had Carolina  
Heads like thine, not hot,  
She had weighed the iron  
Ere she fired the shot !  
All her waste of fury  
No hero left to her  
But the man of Jewry,  
Memminger.

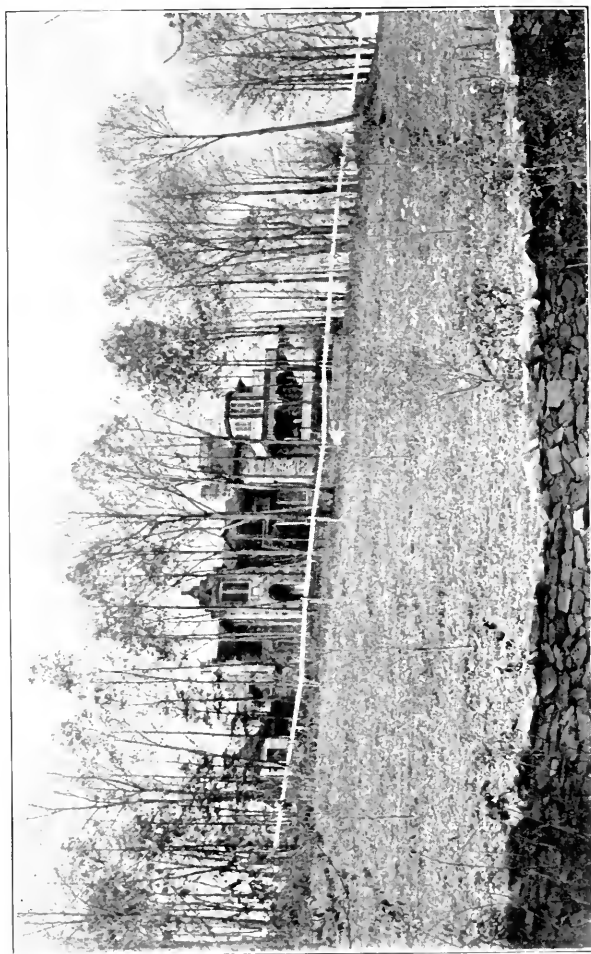
1893.

## PALOS

I WAKE at Huelva ; sunrise shines  
On Palos, name I know so well  
Where Rio Tinto from its mines  
Comes on to join the Odiel.

I seek the quay and hire my boat  
Among the many vessels there  
And down the tawny river float  
In that same raw Columbus air,





GAPLAND HALL, FROM THE EAST



In this four hundredth happy spring,  
    Since in this port his sail he furled  
Who, like yon coots on fluttering wing  
    Low flying, dipped them down the world.

Amidst his scenes I sit in awe  
    Hushed by my country's cradle story  
And watch the hump of Rabida  
    Draw nearer on its promontory.

The scaffolds round the shaft just raising  
    To him, I think one more depiction  
By painters, after time amazing,  
    Of Jesus raised for crucifixion,

And as I climb the Prior's height  
    Where Christus paused in this far region  
His globe soul half eclipsed in night  
    I feel a natural religion.

Yon only window well I mark  
    Above the postern where his hand  
Fray Perez waved, as from the ark,  
    To take the dove in bringing land.

And where the travellers entered twain  
    I leave behind all harsh complaints,  
One gentle priest then lived in Spain  
    Whom Science ranks among her saints.

The cool *patios* they're restoring,  
    The vaults uptorn, the monks' small cells,  
The Saviour nailed for his adoring,  
    The convent jail, the Moorish wells,

The stable like the inn's for Mary,  
The *loggia* that o'erhangs the sea,  
I thread as in some cave of faery,  
Up to the Prior's library,

Where books of dread by pagans written  
But lamplight threw on that dark sea  
And through the windows redly litten  
The sandalled monks spied sorcery.

But Palos tars, accused of robbing,  
Tested that stranger's serious worth,  
Her doctor felt a twin world throbbing  
And helped the young idea forth.

Off to the court the country pastor  
Made the first voyage, tonsure-curl'd,  
And on a donkey, like his master,  
Rode into town to save a world.

They thank him for the invitation  
And send their Notary right about  
And fine poor Palos from the nation,  
To take the expedition out.

For that, O Palos! I am risking  
(No saddle and no stirrup mine)  
This ride and were my mare a-frisking  
I might leave thee my broken chine.

The houseless road with flowers is sprinkled,  
The pinegroves moan, low flaps a stork,  
I see old ocean's head unwrinkled  
Beyond the sea strand's trees of cork.

And soldiers guard lest thieves assail us  
The ancient road on Tarshish strand:  
There is more danger still by Palos  
Than in the wide Columbian land.

This is not Palos, these wine caverns  
Backed into hillocks with low walls!  
Where be the port, the sailors' taverns,  
The smell of tar, the boatswains' calls?

This is some farmers' *hameau* stranded  
High up the land; the old church tower  
In a high gravel pit upstanded  
Just peeping o'er this many an hour,

As when the Norman pirates entered  
The Moorish peace of Cadiz bay  
And in this mosque the learnèd centred  
Round Almegist and Algebra.

The distant age of printing-paper  
Found Ismail's star o'er Spain senescent,  
They might have crossed the sea by vapor  
And on the Indies put the crescent.

Some Koran ever there to read is  
Whose gibberish Geber's lore may throttle;  
Mahomet bullies Archimedes  
And Torquemada, Aristotle.

With me the problem now is bitter,  
How to get off this Rozinante  
And not to make all Palos titter,  
Which crowds to see this Yankee "ante."

And like Columbus' standing eggs,  
To save my shell requires address;  
They bring a chair; I bless its legs:  
Something in Palos I must bless.

I disapprove those eyes of her  
Who from one trellised yard grimaces  
And on my country puts the slur,  
That of one blood are all man-races:

Was she not here, ancient of species,  
When up the streets like sharks with fins on  
The sailors all had Beatriches,  
And Peter's cock crowed thrice at Pinzon?

Let realisms not displease us!  
Old Niebla jail: *memento mori*!  
One thief went in to heaven with Jesus,  
And fifty thieves to Salvadore!

Diogenes and cynics bicker  
On honest men alone to settle,  
The wise man asks, whose blood is thicker,  
"Is this my tool, a tool of mettle?"

The Palos people cease to chatter:  
All gravity they hear me say,  
"America was found by matter!  
And matter was America."

With this I scatter silver shekels  
(And while they scramble get me gone)  
To various admirals in freckles, —  
And, no doubt, of Columbian spawn.

“Palos, the Marshy” one stone lane  
Drops to its port; the main street forks  
To Moguer where they sell their grain  
And olive oil and fungus corks.

There in the forks his farmhouse stands,  
Good Pinzon’s, with arched gate and walls;  
He left a substance for dreamlands,  
Nor parleyed for Viceregal halls.

I like his life because ’tis short,  
He gives to Palos fame its own,  
He made Columbus no retort  
Nor troubled history with a moan.

And later, stout Iberian men,  
From Pinzon’s spirit did absorb,  
Nuñez who gazed from Darien,  
Magellan, circler of the orb.

Palos was naught but situation  
Beyond the straits, a nook unfriended  
Where no adjacent spying nation  
Might hear its wail of doom, world-ended.

That wail I hear in Palos church:  
“Mary! O Mother! Slay this devil!  
This crow who on our cross does perch  
And picks our eyes out for his revel,

“Picks son and husband, lover, brother,  
And sails to ports that never were:  
Thou art our friend, God’s virgin mother!  
O Venus! have us in thy care!”

Prayer volatile as bird or bee is  
And man more oft than Gods hath bended,—  
Could wooden women halt ideas  
Columbus in this church had ended.

So prayed that day afflicted creatures,  
Against the good luck to them blown,  
They clawed their wooden virgin's features,  
And seldom since has she been shown ;

To me they fetch her from a closet,  
A human bowsprit full of scars,  
With once blue eyes and cheeks of roset,  
Like Irish wives of Palos tars.

So in Phoenicia's golden crisis,  
When Hiram's ships would counter truly,  
The Tyrian woman plead to Isis  
And stopped his galleons short of Thulé.

The men of Thulé were not craven,  
They wintered on the western shore,  
But unreturning as the raven,  
Vineland, Red Eric saw no more.

The plain white church with chapels cool  
And floor of tile and altar fret  
That day became an urchins' school  
To teach the Pope his alphabet.

And in its pulpit as I stand,  
The same as in that day's suspense,  
I feel the strength of Ferdinand  
And government's beneficence.



My country is like Spain *anon*,  
In chivalry's reunion sure,  
Castile is one with Aragon  
And in Granada still the Moor.

Not hard far-off adventures be,  
But hard it is not to oppress :  
Drive not the Moors to Barbary  
And have barbarian happiness !

And hark ! ye priests, for signs who search  
And pulpits close to week day rule :  
Think how Columbus of this church  
Made heaven's earthy vestibule !

Loquacious Jews whose God began it,  
Whose victim died for his deep wit,  
Did your Messiah to our planet  
Know that he trod but half of it ?

That this, the only world he treasured,  
For it dissolved his Trinity —  
Was like the smallest orange measured  
In the Arcana's orangery ? —

Was less in night's cerulean bosk,  
Than one low arch amid the grove  
Of arch on arch in that vast mosque  
The Dryads at Cordova love ?

A preacher's blood I feel in me,  
In Palos pulpit where I stand,  
To pound its iron tracery,  
Like Goetz, who wore the iron hand.



And as that lone Italian drave,  
    Into the Palos mind of murk  
The flash light of the western wave,  
    I am Columbus' handiwork.

---

Ocean its revelations clear  
    Made not to Arab, Jew or Greek, —  
The drifting things from some near sphere  
    That of a human neighbor speak.

One notchèd chip, one rotten apple,  
    That in earth's faithful currents swum,  
Did more the brother worlds to grapple  
    Than all the prayers of Christendom.

Long as he took the wheel to plan, —  
    Eternal surface smooth and clear,—  
Came to the rutted mind of man  
    The comprehension of the sphere ;

Slowly it passed from Greek to Goth  
    And to the wisest seemed a fact ;  
A sailor groped in ocean's froth  
    And shaped the problem to an act.

For no new world Columbus sought ;  
    Embargoed Ind he hoped to clutch ;  
His aptness grasped the spheroid thought  
    And knew extremes did somewhere touch.

There is a mean amidst extremes,  
    There is a half-way happiness ;  
Between the continents he dreams  
    The lost Atlantis lay to bless.

As in a tube a hyacinth,  
    Flowered knowledge in the steel-clad camp :  
Religion was a labyrinth  
    But science was a kindling lamp.

Man's bony frame of shadows sick  
    Beat starved against his prison bars,  
The owl-bright eye of Copernik  
    Was out by night to catch the stars.

In the Italian schools the Moor,  
    Though beat by these new monarchies,  
Hung on the lance of Avenzoar  
    The lamp of old Maimonides.

And in the minds of gentlemen  
    There came a crisis and a jar,  
As in the mines of Almaden  
    Quicksilver moves in cinnabar.

His iron casque had pinched the Don :  
    Eight hundred years he fought the Moor.  
The bastard line of Aragon  
    Taught Barcelona literature.

From those Sicilian vesper bells,  
    That Popes and poetry enticed,  
Down where Amalfi's infidels  
    The loadstone compass left to Christ,

Letters made merchants of the Jews,  
    And sharpened the Italian scent,  
But Letters only, that refuse  
    Bright Physics' light, are sentiment.

Physics and martial music came  
To Europe in the Turkman's hand :  
Constantinople's dying flame  
Lighted the birth of Ferdinand

And hushed the soft Petrarchian pipes  
And broke the Minnesinger's trance  
And Printing flew her beacon types  
Along the walled towns of the Hanse.

Physics her apparatus played  
As in some school for grown-up boys  
And in the Nuremberger's trade  
The Globe appeared among his toys.

Thus geometric as the Moor,  
Perforce, his propositions lined,  
Learning descended to the poor  
And taught her objects to the blind.

'Twas thus the Genoese was taught,  
On some small isle by Exile's sea ;  
A new Herodotus was wrought  
To Poetry's audacity.

Upon King Joao's smirk he waits  
Who would with halfpence fame attain,—  
Small are the souls of little States !  
He turned him to United Spain.

And Salamanca's monks did snub  
The noblest issue ever seen,  
He was no member of a club  
Nor author in a magazine ;

Not frittered into piecemeal things  
Are minds of comprehensive ends,  
He ranked his genius with kings  
And found them in his simple friends.

He had a clean, transparent mind  
One wick of truth could all illume,  
That lighted friendship in his kind  
And scented it with his perfume.

They thought him wholesome more than right ;  
He had the good in Adam's fall ;  
He knew one thing with all his might  
And gods forbid he knew it all !

Ye Palos gentles ! in the land  
That by your help Columbus found,  
Although his love was contraband  
His *mind's* descendants there abound :

Men who at Pavia learned not long  
Nor wranglers were in smug debates  
But in the realm of physics strong  
Columbian blessings left on States.

Palos ! as friends of old acquaint,  
Ne'er may your Spain in her eclipse  
Match Compostello's burly saint  
Against Columbia's battleships !

Or ye may find your saint's cuirass  
Fade like the Ottoman's lone moon  
And Archimedes' burning glass  
Be yonder sun of afternoon !

Columbus turned the missal's page :  
But love of shrines shall I condemn  
Who make to Palos pilgrimage  
As he would see Jerusalem ?

From superstition half he woked  
Who gazed on Physics' grand *demesne*  
As through the church tower I am poked  
To see Algarvè's vision scene.

Beyond her tile roofs' wrinkled net,  
Skin of her shrivelled usufructs,  
On Huelva, Palos' look is set  
Flashing her Roman aqueducts, —

Huelva ! Whose villas sparkle white  
Above her port of copper mesh  
Like the pomegranate's seeds of light  
Dotting its lush and purple flesh.

There friar Bacon's fire retort  
Melts wealth from ore and Spanish dross  
With British ships crowds Huelva's port :  
Palos has nothing but the cross.

Nature here noble, man ungrown,  
The tawny rivers at the flood  
O'erflow and like the Amazon  
Their lambent boundary stain with mud.

The sailor men of Palos hire  
Like Indians in the copper mines ;  
Her strand is nought but empty mire  
Where like one shell my shallop shines.

But reverent I look upon  
The sailor-scrivener's index page,  
As piously a preacher's son  
Visits his youth's old parsonage  
And thinks how by Gennesaret  
All night disciples nothing waft  
While on this farther side their net  
Was cast and drew the mighty draught.

---

The port's lane echoes to my tread  
Like sounds from ocean's chambered shells;  
Towns live their period like the dead,  
And never wake by miracles.

Palos! I leave thee with a sigh  
Gravely and sweet thou treated me;  
Across the drownèd marsh I fly  
As o'er the Saragossa sea.

I feel that space has worlds to find  
Unknown on Matter's universe,  
No waterspouts are in the mind  
No tyrants chain discoverers.

One prayer will be never misspoken,  
It needs no tinkling holy bell,  
It is the Public Spirit's token  
To wish all things constructive well.

Skyward our Argonautic prow  
Turns like the thunder-slayer's Kite;  
The human Mind is Palos now,  
Its expeditions infinite.

As 'twixt the stars lost monads scatter,  
And pollen floats from sphere to sphere,  
We shall see God, pervasive Matter,  
That hath in motion just career.

### IN GROTE'S GREECE

FROM folks insipid and unfeeling  
Came one who needed no annealing,  
Love childless kept him from congealing.

He lived beside his money-lending,  
LEARNING his concubine and vending  
All day, he read at night's descending.

His favorite work was Say on Barter,  
He was Republican, no martyr,  
And varicosely spurned a garter.

A Benthamite, old ills he flouted  
Till came the chance and then he doubted;  
He hated slavery till 'twas routed.

He would the ballot give the many  
Until too many, then not any,  
And in the pound stuck at the penny.

But o'er this money groat's existence  
The purple Greece shone in from distance  
And gave his vagaries consistence.

Like old Mortality a tintster,  
Among the marbles in the Minster  
They put away this withered spinster.



JEFFERSON

WHY does this politician keep  
The power a century to stir?  
In war so weak, in peace so deep  
And feminine in character?  
Suspicious of his fellow-chiefs,  
Insinuating and apart  
And dropping his posthumous leafs  
The foliage of a withered heart?  
Is it because, when Virtue feared  
Science would be Religion's wraith,  
He took the prophets by the beard  
And cheered the ever-living faith?  
And in his century's slave kiosk,  
Forced for the Moors himself to brand,  
Stood like Averroes by the mosque  
With Aristotle in his hand?

GOVERNOR WILLIAM FRANKLIN

1784

MY father's policy is wide,  
He manages the selfish town,  
Vindictive, placid is his pride,  
He has the pride of pulling down;  
My dull Lords Penn, King George, the clouds,—  
I've seen him draw them from their height;  
His gainful wisdom tickles crowds,  
His lever is his paper kite.  
  
I know my mother's humble place;  
A vassal ship she came upon,

The pilgrim mother of his race ;  
I am his German leman's son,  
To him, to her, I owe the span  
Of life's delightful ecstasy,  
Yet when he talks the Rights of Man  
I feel a bastard's injury.

Docile to him in filial fear,  
Born to his foot, like Mercury's wing,  
Obedience gave me a career,  
I rose above him with his king ;  
His conscience pricked him at my height,  
My subjects might his virtue mock :  
As when a boy I flew his kite  
And down the cord he felt the shock.

England than Franklin more humane  
Raised me to honor's pedigree,  
A lady by my rank was lain  
And took my spurious son with me ;  
His grandsire's tact my offspring won —  
I kept my oath and wrecked my house —  
The Revolution took my son,  
I wail a broken-hearted spouse !

Isaac beneath his father's knife  
Was not more still than I obey,  
Honoring him who gave me life  
And all that bless'd it lured away :  
My native land for which I fought,  
The love domestic that endears.  
God spare me thy rewarding thought,  
I must live long as father's years !<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Their united ages were 168 years.

## AT AYR

THERE are no towers like Melrose  
About the land of Ayr,  
But all the morning gates unclose  
To who goes pilgrim there;  
No Abbotsford demands *largess*,  
Nor money-warders prance,  
To show the poet of success  
And banker in romance.

But as the little towns of Burns  
Their names familiar say,  
The stranger to the native turns  
And smiles between them play;  
A social glee like Bobby's rhymes  
In eye and heart prevails,  
As when in Canterbury times  
Sly Chaucer told his tales;

Till Ayr its flat, wide street begins  
And midst his haunts we stand  
Who made its humble brigs and inns  
Like scenes in Holy land  
And he who water turned to wine,  
And lived not half his span,  
Lies in the Scottish Palestine  
The glorious Son of Man.

We drink his tankard full of ale  
And toast him prodigal  
As if it were the Holy Grail  
Ourselves Knight Parsafal

For that wherever life was sad  
Or self-oppression ruled  
He made the hovel-hearted glad  
The dying firelog Yuled.

His spirit was the gale that blows  
Across the Irish sea,  
With independence to oppose  
And voice of liberty,  
The cattle feel it in their hair  
It cools the ploughman's noon  
And blooms the thistle and the tare  
Along the banks of Doon.

Doon's crystal slide on pebbly floor  
In many a stream we find  
But not the poet peeping o'er  
With his swift, minnowy mind :  
The mind that poises, flashes, falls,  
With instant instincts rife,  
And prisoned in by river walls  
Reflects and loses life.

They tire like Gods who would create,  
They sublimate their hour,  
Life's quickening to illustrate  
Drains every vital power ;  
In zenith like the laboring bee  
By beauty's regent charmed,  
They from a moment's jubilee  
Drop to the earth deformed.

Gorged on green leaves the silkworm weaves  
His nature earthy, fine ;

Beauty and health are poet's leaves,  
He needs good meat and wine ;  
Grudge not his sweets who drink them up !  
Thy nectar was his soul ;  
His Highland Mary one day's cup,  
And Jean Armour his bowl.

His butts they were the stiff and smirk,  
His sinners sham and cant,  
He railed like Jesus at the Kirk  
And flogged the Covenant ;  
John Knox so plied on faith his thong,  
Burns went to Luther's school, —  
Who loved not woman, wine and song  
Was all his life a fool.

Wide as our British race his wand  
To conjure formalism ;  
The young world charm from false despond  
And flout the catechism ;  
Kirk Alloway's a ruin dull,  
Its windows gaping niches,  
Except when Tam o' Shanter's full  
And sees it full of witches.

Great babe ! who haled thy Scottish sect  
And put its saints thy debtors,  
And made thy wayside dialect  
A language of *belles lettres* !  
I do not kneel but bow thy due,  
Ent'ring thy hut's low portal :  
The unsevere see Nature through,  
The joyous troll immortal.

## TRAVELERS' REST

(HOUSE OF GEN. HORATIO GATES)

1781

MRS. GATES: Well! Here, in one county, are  
four of ye of mark,  
Retired for public reasons: Gates, Stephens,  
Lee and Darke;  
While poor Dan Morgan, teamster, and Battle-  
town's bully,  
Will get the county's ballot before the best of  
ye.

GEN. GATES: A natural soldier, Mrs. Gates, his  
rank well won,  
As great in valor as in caution, Washington.

MRS. GATES: Pity your caution hadn't seen to  
this day's work,  
When you and Congress fought him so, close  
by at York!  
He's put Cornwallis in a coop at Yorktown  
three.

GEN. GATES: I hope we'll hear this night, my  
dear, of a great victory!

MRS. GATES: Then you've come down, to wish  
that much for Washington —

GEN. GATES: I see all things more humbly since  
we lost our son.

MRS. GATES: Now, father, sit thee down! take  
my wine-cellar key!

I said I wouldn't open it, but will, *for thee*.

Hark! there's the pack of General Lee: that  
key give back!

GEN. GATES: Darling, his sword is broken, too.  
Give him some sack!

MRS. GATES: Your worst adviser, General Gates,  
since that Conway  
And drunken Wilkinson who made you such  
repay.

GEN. GATES: Mary, he is my oldest friend since  
Indian frays:

He has no Mary Valence in his dark'ning days.

MRS. GATES: I'll give him no Madeira. A julep  
will do —

(*Gen. Charles Lee enters: pack of hounds bays.*)

GEN. LEE: There's nothing like a julep, Madame,  
made by you!

Well, drink Horatio! to the French. The deed  
is done.

GEN. GATES: Let's toast Virginians first, old  
friend! To *Washington*!

GEN. LEE: Ne'er to that mediocrity I'll bend my  
knee!

MRS. GATES: 'Tis all the greater done by Medi-  
ocrity!

Is Yorktown taken?

GEN. LEE: That's the news to Charlestown come.  
The men are drunk, the women dance, the boys  
they drum.

I rode from Cherry tavern here to tell you first,  
Though Mistress Dun, at *Prato Rio*, cooled my  
thirst.

MRS. GATES: Madeira it shall be for our country  
is free.

Ye victors in the past! huzza this victory!  
When you, Gates, took Burgoyne there was lost  
Brandywine,  
But Washington sent cheer to the New Eng-  
land line:

'Tis turn and turn about —

GEN. LEE: I'll see him damned before —

MRS. GATES: Peter, bring back the key of the  
wine-cellar door!

GEN. LEE: Halt! Here's to us Commanders!  
let us all drink hard!

Washington, and Lee, and Gates, and old Arte-  
mas Ward!

MRS. GATES: Now add your engineer, my gallant  
Polish beau,

Who drew the lines around your foes, Kosciusko!  
He lay in 'Travelers' Rest, which the wounded  
enjoy, —

They all could live but him, my dear, my only  
boy!

GEN. LEE: Lady Gates, your charity to the  
Continental line

Will make you and your son the Family Divine.  
I have no wife nor child and I live with my  
dogs —

MRS. GATES: With dogs, in tubs or ruins, lived  
all demagogues!

GEN. LEE: And Jezebel also! Your Madeira may  
be good

But you let it stand so long it tastes bitterwood.

GEN. GATES: Mary, let's make a night! we  
beaten men and thee:



'Tis our duty to get tipsy: give me the key!  
There! stingy puss. Treat, the last time, the  
Gates *cabal*!  
Come, bring the lantern, Lee! and smell of  
Portugal!

(*Exit Gates and Lee.*)

MRS. GATES: They love each other, dear, poor  
men of Braddock's fight!

Girls! light the banquet fire and set them out  
a bite!

I think Horatio looks pale: he loved his son.  
Now in his grief I'll have him write to  
Washington.

Husband lived lonely once as Lee till I came  
West

And tried to make him happy in his Travelers'  
Rest.

How he did farm! Poor officers of England's  
line!

They do their best. But Lee is such a libertine!  
Till he came here my husband was aye *com-  
plaisant*,

And General Washington chose him for Ad-  
jutant:

Gates left alone *is* Washington: Lee comes  
between.

He thinks so many things and husband's so  
serene.

Perhaps we're punished for our Saratoga pride.  
The laurels turned to willows and our dear  
boy died.

He loves this country and his soldiers Gates  
respect:

If not the first commander, be the first subject!

(*Reënter Gates and Lee with bottles.*)

GEN. LEE: '*Subject?*' Shame, Madame! And  
shall we so re-gorge

That after George the Third we want another  
George?

MRS. GATES: At least four kings *you've* had:  
two Georges, Stanislow,

Don Joseph, *debauchee*, but you like not kings  
now.

At Poniatowski's table volunteer you sat:

He gave you no command: but our Congress  
did that!

GEN. LEE: Madame as Tragedy is Queen of  
every feast.

MRS. GATES. You had been a better man if  
married by some priest.

GEN. GATES: Now, wife and friend, be merry!  
*We* conquer in age:

Think of your friend Burgoyne, and of my  
friend, Gage!

We both are seniors, neighbor, of Washington:

He is only forty-nine, though the war is done.

To-day his name is royal and we cannot pluck

The *baton* from his glory by calling it luck.

MRS. GATES: Eat a bit. The pheasant's cold;  
the mutton's better.

(*They sit. "Yelp! yelp!" from the cellar.*)

You careless men the pork-house door have left—

GEN. LEE: My setter!

*(Dog with meat rushes through hall.)*

She'll drive me out with my pack!

GEN. GATES: I thought of old Nace  
Who robbed that cellar and was hanged. I see  
his face.

He earned all he stole; his price they paid to  
me

I shall give with interest to the slaves I free.

*(Mrs. Gates returns.)*

GEN. LEE: Chicken heart!

MRS. GATES: Must we live with your dogs and  
your strife?

GEN. LEE: Sweetheart, take my dogs and you  
take my only wife.

I sent some quail to you and my dog stole but  
one.

I always think of Mary Gates when I do gun.

GEN. GATES: For this wine Mary's father paid  
thirty pounds cool

Out of dock ere he died, solid man of Liverpool.

GEN. LEE: How delicious! King Jozay had no  
such wine

Though his nobles' wines and wives he made  
concubine.

One more glass and I will sing you what I sang  
Jozay!

*(Mrs. Gates retires.)*

GEN. GATES: Sing it softly! her bereavement  
Mary takes away.

GEN. LEE (*sings*) :

Drink to the lass that lingers in the glass !  
Oft as she may pass she's a peri ;  
O what a body she,  
And an eye of yellow glee !  
And she makes you bend the knee, —  
Miss Madeira !

Her breath's boukay, excels the new-mown hay,  
And she holds her age for an era ;  
Like honey are the drips  
From her glue-gold kissing lips,  
And she gurgles while one sips  
Miss Madeira.

GEN. GATES: Hark ! 'tis a hymn for victory.

Our German choirs

Have come from Mecklenburg to sing to their  
esquires.

MRS. GATES (*entering*): Get them our pear  
cider worked in whiskey barrels !

Set it out upon the lawn ! I love those carols !

GERMAN CHOIR :

King Fritz he gave his sword  
To the blessèd of the Lord,  
And he only waits the word  
From Washington to die :  
Send him up ! Ye Luther's choir !  
In a chariot of fire ! —  
He has seen his heart's desire :  
Washington has the Victory !

Cornwallis through our gates  
Burst over our estates :  
Behind York's fortress grates  
    With his army does he lie,  
And in spite of all his boasts  
He is drowned upon our coasts —  
Shout to the Lord of Hosts :  
    Washington has the victory !

O God ! to us most kind,  
Give us one united mind !  
And our States united bind  
    While our tyrant we defy !  
We have passed the Red seas o'er  
And are on the farther shore :  
Sing ! thy people evermore ! —  
    Washington has the victory !

GEN. GATES : The voice of a nation I surely hear  
at last !

GEN. LEE : You are on the army list but I am out-  
cast.

MRS. GATES : Come among our neighbors and  
with their joys entwine !

GEN. LEE : They won't stand like the French.  
I'll stay here and drink wine.

*(Exit General and Mrs. Gates.)*

Now if they come not back the whole bottle is  
mine ;

That's why I like a dog : he cannot drink my  
wine,

And all I say he wags his tail at, backing me up.

(*Dog scratches at back door.*)

Come in, Cracow! Hide there! I'll talk to thee  
and sup.

Gates and his wife with his small parentage  
concur:

His father was the butler, mother housekeeper  
To the Duke of Leeds; that's why they like  
Virginia,

Where land and money do not need insignia.

I was a General's son, sent to school in Swissland,  
And, bred in barracks, made Indian in this land,  
Named *Boiling Water* by Mohawks at Johnson  
Hall,

I crossed these States on foot and fought at  
Montreal,

Commanded a division of the Portuguese,  
Was Major General for the Poles, the same for  
these

Damned rebels, whose rump Congress treats us  
worse than Draco:

Its test of Generalship is how to hoe tobacco.

(*Cheers outside.*)

Hear how the Anabaptists and Reformed cheer  
Gates!

The greedy Dutch for once eat victuals out of  
plates!

Gates has one greatness: he likes *me*, a lady's  
son.

I hoped to make and rule him as my Wash-  
ington;

Indulgent rustic squire and hero on the staff

As Governor Jefferson's cock he lost his gaff  
At Camden ; Jefferson from Tarlton ran away  
But like all writing men will fight some other day.  
These politicians of Virginia see their fate  
If Union be resolved and Washington be great ;  
Young Monroe is far-sighted : he says Madame  
Gates

More ready income has than any in these States,  
'Twill work upon the populace by printing  
presses.

Against a King and Kingdom we'll foment  
addresses.

*(Enter Gen. and Mrs. Gates.)*

MRS. GATES: Bless me ! I smell a dog. General,  
I suppose it's you,  
Who live with dogs so much you're dogg'd and  
doggy too.

More wine ? Well, those poor folks to General  
Gates were sweet :

Horatio ! go get what you will to drink and eat !

*(Mrs. Gates gives the key : Gen. Gates is  
followed down by Gen. Lee's dog.)*

GEN. LEE: Lady ! Virginia's queen ! To you all  
will defer.

Hast heard Gates takes Tom Nelson's place as  
governor ?

He drafted and conscripted and he must resign ;  
His house at Yorktown he has shelled till it's a  
mine.

MRS. GATES: That's honor : to destroy your home  
where foes be guest ;

I'd fire a cannon heartily on Travelers' Rest,  
If round its humble limestone fort our foemen put  
Circumvallations ; I would burn it like some hut.

GEN. LEE : This is no home for General Gates : 'tis  
too submiss.

MRS. GATES : The Tower of London's governor  
was Cornwallis.

These stiff grey walls and chimneyed ends to  
me are dear :

My son's life bubbled like our springs and  
ended here.

I see his image everywhere o'er these slate lands.  
He loved the sheep they pastured, the sheep  
dog, his hands ;

Blue mountain tops above our wolds my spirits  
enjoy :

I think they're heaven where father and I shall  
find our boy.

Ambition did us harm : I want Horatio good ;  
He needs excel in nothing else : we have no  
brood.

No more than General Washington or you,  
Charles Lee,

Washington was for the cause, the public family.  
That's why his character stands out, the best  
of you,

As from North Mountain chain out there abuts  
Fairview.

*(Enter Gen. Gates.)*

GEN. GATES : Eight thousand foot and sailors  
fifteen hundred were



Taken at York—the prisoners come to Winchester—

Charles Washington sends me a post, of him  
'tis kind!

Lord Fairfax heard the news and he has lost his mind.

MRS. GATES: Poor man! He has seen in his life  
William and Mary,

The Huguenots suppressed in France,—all things contrary;

Cross'd love drove him into his wilds, our Lord  
Lieutenant;

Child Washington with Indians carried his pennant.

Surveying his Culpepper realm.

GEN. LEE: He now knows why  
The devil showed him so much land worship-  
fully!

MRS. GATES: You haven't done so badly, sir:  
Congress paid you

For every acre you possess ere you wore blue!

GEN. GATES: Lincoln received Cornwallis' sword  
who once took his

And neighbor Otho Williams made a General  
is.

That young West Indian, Hamilton, stormed a redoubt—

GEN. LEE: And if he lives you planter men will find him out —

Bastard to Adam Smith, accountant and blade.

MRS. LEE: Father, the Martinsburgers come to serenade

And, don't you think! their music is the Hessian band

You took at Saratoga, paroled in Maryland!

I've venison for them! They shall drink all the stout!

*(Dog below howls at the Hessian music and bursts into the room and is seized by Mrs. Gates.)*

GEN. LEE: Don't beat my dog!

MRS. GATES: He's got a paper I'll make out!

*(Exit General and Mrs. Gates with dog.)*

THE HESSIAN BAND:

I.

Our Landgrave did not right  
When he sent us here to fight  
Good German brothers white  
That we thought were savage red  
And our Duke has us misled:  
Our drums now they say,

“We have light!

Ye have right!”

Hear us Peace's music play!

“We shall be of one band!

This shall be our motherland!

Hail! great America!”

II.

Rash Britain is undone  
By our Gates and Washington.  
Our liberty is won

And the long war finishèd !  
To the living and the dead  
Our drums now they say,  
    “To the right !  
    Is the might !”  
Hear the march that we will play !  
“ We shall bring by our Band  
Thousands from our German land —  
    Hail ! great America ! ”

## III.

For this Columbus sailed  
And the Saxon race prevailed ;  
Independence exhaled  
From the mountains of the West,  
Where the eagle builds his nest.  
Our drums now they say,  
    “ O how bright !  
    After Night ! ”  
And the loud Assembly play ! —  
“ We shall enter, hand in hand,  
To the beauty of your land !  
    Hail ! great America ! ”

GEN. LEE (*solus*) : The wine makes me friendly ;  
    I wish I were like others !  
They are drinking and kissing like sweethearts  
    and brothers.  
I sit with my last friend in Europe or o'er here :  
Stand by me, my Bottle ! my last brave gren-  
    adier !  
I could not be second ; I was second and fell ;

The last time I was principal I fell as well;  
 Mixing ink with my whiskey I wrote with my  
 fist  
 And Congress countersigned it, "Charles Lee is  
 dismissed."  
 When my fingers were shot off why left he my  
 hand?  
 I have duel'd with career and scorned reprimand.  
 No fighter should write till his history is done!  
 From me to a star is less than to Washington.

*(He bows his head beside the bottle.)*

*(Enter General Gates.)*

GEN. GATES: Sad? I have you now. 'Tis the mood  
 will do you good:

After Camden all my pride like a son I subdued;  
 I said: "To my father I will arise and go!"  
 My father was a servant and his son fall'n low.  
 I went to General Washington and claimed his  
 hand,

He took me to his heart and I felt he was grand.

GEN. LEE: I, Lee of Villa Veltra's fight? —

GEN. GATES: What's that renown?

Europe stands tiptoe gazing on him of York-  
 town.

I would not have you stand in shadows from  
 that light,

'Twill search us all.

GEN. LEE: Good Dunker! Be not too contrite!

Clinton has an army left: he knows a cam-  
 paign —

(*Enter Mrs. Gates.*)

MRS. GATES: I reckon it is *this* one, out of  
Charles Lee's brain,  
Marked "Copy of the plan left with Howe in  
New York: "  
The dog you taught to steal thought it had the  
smell of pork  
And he slipped it through his collar —

(*She hands the plan to General Gates.*)

GEN. GATES:                               Why, General Lee?  
What's this? "*A plan to break the public  
enemy —  
Garrisons on tide-water — cut Virginia off  
And raid the Dutch farmers in the mountain  
trough;  
Burn their barns and mills; they are greedy and  
will pause  
And cry out for peace though they love the rebel  
cause.*"

MRS. LEE: This explains why Arnold and Corn-  
wallis further down  
Raided far up the country into Charlotte town.  
Lee pointed out his neighbors' wealth in these  
designs —

To save himself, deserter from the English lines!

GEN. LEE: 'Twas versatility when prisoner, —  
time slack.

MRS. GATES: You didn't fight at Mounmouth  
when ordered to attack.

GEN. GATES: I cannot take the view that this is  
matter light,

You were fresh from our lines and showed Howe  
where to smite.

MRS. GATES: Showed him our plantation to  
burn, where you are drinking!

GEN. LEE: I did not think —

GEN. GATES: One cannot draft a plan unthinking.  
This plan *we* had discussed; it was all in reason.

I am in commission: great God! is this treason?

GEN. LEE: Why, I overflow with such military fun!

MRS. GATES: I am no Margaret Arnold though  
I have no son.

GEN. LEE: Madame, you seek to drive me out  
from Travelers' Rest.

MRS. GATES: This is Major General Gates; you  
are a dangerous guest!

O Lee! had you pure-hearted been, outside your  
lines

You never had been captured by your concubines.  
While Washington to save your neck played all  
the man,

You sold your talents to our foes and drew this  
plan!

GEN. LEE: I'll never come here more while  
that female is nigh.

GEN. GATES: Madame Gates is my wife —

MRS. GATES: Here to live and to die!

GEN. LEE: I shall quit Virginia: farewell!

GEN. GATES: I fear 'tis best.

GEN. LEE: Woman and serpent! guard ye well  
your Travelers' Rest.

(*General Gates weeps. His wife lights General  
Lee to the door. The dogs bay.*)

## WASHINGTON

RARE the chance to be the hero and the pioneer!  
Washington has squared the circle and has cubed  
the sphere.

While he lived fame lagged behind him, when he  
died went on

Like the loadstone in his compass and the stars  
at dawn.

They who mock him as the children mocked  
Elisha's cloak,

Meet the she-bears of the forest and the towns  
in smoke;

Shallow skeptic, simple rustic, in his faith unite,  
And his portrait like the sunburst fills the world  
with light.

## CÆSAR

(FROUDE)

CÆSAR how far thy arrowy name  
Pierces the future with its flame!  
The greatest name that Jesus knew,  
The mightiest man that Shakespere drew,  
Plutarch survives but for thy tale,  
Peter and Paul by thee prevail,  
Namesakes from thee Popes, Kaisers, Tsars,  
And every land's Imperators!

As when thy mother called thee nigh  
We lisp thy name in warm July,  
And to thy calendars go back,  
The Gospels and the Almanac.

The German learned his name by thee,  
No Gaul was there till thou did'st see,  
And British men in every age  
Begin their story with thy page;  
Spain, Greece, the Moor, the Parthian horde,  
Arab, Egyptian, felt thy sword;  
Rome's village standard thou unfurled,  
The narrow town became the world,  
Its Senate let Barbarians in  
And all the races made akin.  
Then on the fields, all smoothed to sow,  
The seeds of Jesus silent blow.  
Jesus, thy friend was priest to Jove,  
And Jesus, Cæsar, Jove, are Love !

J. B. STILLSON

DECEMBER 26, 1880

DEAD courier that from battle came so fleetly  
Thy bugle full of music for the land,  
Thou fall'st at last so weary and so sweetly  
The bells of Christmas tremble where they stand,  
And draw the tuneful trumpet from thy hand.  
What beauty in thine eyes and locks of raven  
When youth and emulation loosed thy rein !  
What tender welcome on thy lips engraven  
That friendship never shall behold again !  
What honor guided aye thy pen so skilful  
That mercenary art can never know !  
What indignations womanly and wilful  
Bent every golden tendon in thy bow  
Till broke thy string and winter laid thee low !



## POLITICIANS' CHRISTMAS

A. D. 1

"THERE is no room for you in the inn," said the landlord to the pair.

"The travel this month is lively, and the house filled everywhere ;

The Emperor taxes the world he rules, and all Judeans must go

Up to the city of Bethlehem, whether they will or no."

"'Tis not for me," the traveler said, a carpenter tough and tried,

"I crave a bed but for the maid who has ridden all day at my side."

"The maid, forsooth," the landlord said, "hath a matronly look to me !"

And he passed a wink to the hotel clerk, who snickered chivalrously.

The guests about the hotel clerk, they did look on askant —

The Pharisee, and the Sadducee and the Greek of the Levant,

To mark this comely, drooping girl, awhile aside they drew

From the themes of taxes and of tolls and internal revenue.

"There is a stall within the barn no camel yet hath ta'en ;

'Twill rest the young girl pleasantly, unless perchance it rain :"

It was a groom who whispered thus ; a husband he  
    had been,  
And cheerfully his lodge he gave to this poor  
    Nazarene.

Ye fathers nursing on your knee the first-born of  
    your dears,  
The priceless for *their* sufferings, the costlier for  
    their fears,  
Think over in these winter nights this Virgin's  
    lonely moan,  
And Joseph's loving tenderness for offspring not  
    his own !

All night the politicians talked about the Roman  
    yoke ;  
The inn blazed up with moving lights, and roared  
    with many a joke :  
They all agreed the Jewish state somehow must  
    be made free,  
But ever about the "patronage" were sure to dis-  
    agree.

The dromedaries in the stalls also did ruminate ;  
The asses and the saddle-nags chewed o'er the  
    themes of state ;  
None saw a little new-born star out of the heavens  
    fall,  
And with a holy glory kiss the stranger in the  
    stall.

None heard the mystic choirs that sang across the  
    glimmering moors ;

None saw the reverend sages ride up to the hostel  
doors ;

And when the earliest Christmas morn o'er crowded  
Bethlehem crept,

The statesmen in the manger knelt, the politicians  
slept.

Still taxed, still taxing, o'er the world the wise and  
noisy spin,

They get the tavern clerk's best cheer, the best  
rooms in the inn.

Thank God ! whose stars of choice, scarce seen,  
upon the lowly fall ! —

The mother fainting by the way, the baby in the  
stall !

1870.

## COMMANDER LINCOLN

(ADDRESS BEFORE THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC SOCIETY,  
1883)

CIVIL soldiers ! reassembled by the river of your  
fame,

Ye who saved the virgin city bathed in Washing-  
ton's clear name !

Which of all your past commanders doth this day  
your memory haunt ? —

Scott, McDowell, Burnside, Hooker, Meade, Mc-  
Clellan, Halleck, Grant ?

There is one too little mentioned when your proud  
reunions come,

And the thoughtful love of country dies upon the  
sounding drum ;

Let me call him in your muster, let me wake him  
in your grief !

Captain by the Constitution, Abram Lincoln was  
your chief !

Ever nearest to his person ye were his defence and  
shield.

He alone of your commanders died upon the battle-  
field.

All your generals were his children, leaning on him,  
childish-willed,

And they all were filial mourners round the  
mighty tomb he filled.

Tender as the harp of David, his soft answers now  
become,

When amid the care of kingdoms rose and fell  
some Absalom ;

And his humor gilds his memory like a light  
within a tent,

Or the sunken sun that lingers on the lofty mon-  
ument.

Like the slave who saw the sunrise with his face  
toward the West,

As it flashed, while yet unrisen, on a slender  
steeple's crest ;

So while victory turned her from him ere the  
dawn in welcome came,

On his pen Emancipation glittered like an altar  
flame.

Feeling for the doomed deserter, feeling for the  
drafted sire,

For the empty Northern hearthstone and the  
Southern home afire,  
Mercy kept him grim as Moloch, all the future  
babes to free,  
And eternal peace to garner for the millions yet to  
be.

Not a soldier of the classics, he could see through  
learned pretence —  
Master of the greatest science, military common-  
sense.

As he watched your marches, comrades! hither,  
thither, wayward years,  
On his map the roads you followed you can trace  
them by his tears.

In the rear the people clamored, in the front the  
generals missed,  
In his inner councils harbored critic and an-  
tagonist,  
But he ruled them by an instinct, like the queen's  
among the bees,  
With a health of soul that honeyed Publicans and  
Pharisees.

Faint of faith, we looked behind us for a chief of  
higher tone,  
While the voice that drowned the trumpets was  
the echo of our own;  
Ever thus, my old companions, Genius has us by  
the hand,  
Walking on the tempest with us, every crisis  
to command!

Like the bugle blown at evening by some home-  
sick son of art,  
Lincoln's words unearthly quiver in the universal  
heart;  
Not an echo left of malice, scarce of triumph in the  
strain,  
As when summer thunder murmurs in pathetic  
showers of rain.

Years forever consecrated, here he lived, where  
duties be,  
Never railing on the climate, nor the toil's  
monotony;  
Here his darling boy he buried and the night in  
vigil wept,  
Like the Lord within the garden when the tired  
disciples slept.

How his call for men went ringing round the  
world, a mighty bell,  
And the races of creation came the proud revolt  
to quell.  
Standing in the last reaction, on the rock of human  
rights,  
Worn and mournful grew his features in the flash  
of battle lights.

Once, like Moses from the mountain, looked he on  
the land he won,  
When the slaves in burning Richmond knelt and  
thought him Washington,  
Then an envious bravo snatched him from the  
theatre of things,

To become a saint of nature in the pantheon of  
kings.

Faded are the golden chevrons, vanished is the  
pride of war,

Mild in heaven his moral glory lingers like the  
morning star,

And the freeman's zone of cotton his white spirit  
seems to be,

And the insects in the harvest beat his army's  
reveille.

All around him spoiled or greedy, women vain and  
honor spent,

Still his faith in human nature lived without dis-  
couragement;

For his country which could raise him, barefoot,  
to the monarch's height,

Could he mock her? or his mother — though *her*  
name she could not write?

Deep the wells of humble childhood, cool the  
springs beside the hut,

Millions more as poor as Lincoln see the door he  
has not shut.

Not till wealth has made its canker every poor  
white's cabin through,

Shall the great republic wither, or the infidel  
subdue!

Stand around your great commander, lay aside  
your little fears!

Every Lincoln carries freedom's car along a  
hundred years.

And when next the call for soldiers rolls along  
the golden belt,  
Look to see a mightier column rise, and march,  
prevail and melt !

NOTHING FALLS SO FAR

EVERY falling star  
To its fate is lit.  
Nothing falls so far  
As we pity it.  
Woman like the dove  
From her blasted tree,  
Finds some fallen love,  
Some fierce sympathy.

Out into the night  
Is not wholly dark ;  
On the billows' might  
Rides the human bark.  
What can break the womb  
Dies not in the pit ;  
Hell's a better home  
Than we pity it.

Nothing falls as deep  
As we pity it :  
By your side may sleep  
Crime's long hypocrite,  
While the bold, frank wolf  
Acts that dreamer's part,  
Taking to his gulf  
No such sneaking heart.



All the felon's lusts  
 Are the good man's joys.  
 Age its millions trusts  
 To the convict boys ;  
 In the ranks enrolled,  
 Colors never furled,  
 Firm the guilty bold  
 Guard the coward world.

Human nature's chief  
 From the gibbet tree  
 Took the dying thief,  
 Not the Pharisee,  
 To his heavenhood,  
 Fellow judge of his :  
 Nothing is so good  
 As we think it is.

Every heavenly orb  
 Has the rust of ours,  
 All that breathe absorb  
 Errors with their powers ;  
 Habits, virtues are,  
 Stars erode by grit ;  
 Nothing falls so far  
 As we pity it.

Death is not as hard  
 As we pity it :  
 It is life's reward,  
 Age's sweet acquit ;  
 No more pain than birth,  
 No worse end than rust.

Thou indulgent earth !  
Take thy loan of dust !

HENRY M. STANLEY

AT THE LOTOS CLUB, NOVEMBER 27, 1886

AH ! little did I ever think,  
Aladdin's lamp, that op'd the dark,  
One plain reporter's skull outshone —  
To light a dark world with his wink :  
That at my side was Mungo Park,  
Who would discover Prester John !

Yet he who wrote the mighty strife  
Where Ethiop's freedom was the gage,  
Well-lived to beat Da Gama's cruise,  
And strike at slavery's fountain life, —  
Marched overland through Pluto's age,  
And was the Orpheus of the News.

Old correspondent of our war !  
You gild our humble craft with gold  
That from the Afric sands you bring ;  
You ride the night like Bethlehem's star ;  
And magi follow to behold  
That in *our* stall was born the king.

You go where Shakespere's fancy ceased —  
Beyond the Roman and the Nile ;  
Decatur stopped where you began ;  
And drooped the missionary priest,  
Lost to his gospel and his isle,  
And all but one brave fellow man.

Then, darker lands of envious doubt  
    You found returning to your own —  
    The shrug, the sneer, the pedant's scorn,  
The lazy printer's rival pout:  
    Which met Columbus at the throne,  
    And were the Saviour's crown of thorn.

Though courts and kings may now avail  
    For wealth or glory, of your use,  
    And in your name think lineage be,  
I only see in Stanley's mail  
    The youthful herald of the News,  
    And courier of Democracy.

## LOCAL GREATNESS

THE wide land has a million streams  
    That babble as they flow,  
And sweet the plaint of local themes  
    The thousand valleys know;  
They tell their tales just as they were,  
    Not as they ought to be,  
And in humanity lay bare  
    Our truer history.

In every place a lady fair  
    Had lovers thrilled by her,  
Love's pastoral was tender there  
    And rare with character;  
Some Helen, Menelaus wed  
    And Paris stole upon,  
And in their small republics bred  
    The wars of Ilion.

Out steps a man in public strife —  
Twenty as good remain ;  
The weakling drew the famous life,  
Homes drew the men of brain ;  
They give his nursing starhood sup,  
They fix his astrolabe,  
And local kindness holds him up  
As if he were their babe.

Up to their priest the hearers look ;  
So purely shaved and friared,  
They hear him read his holy book  
And think he is inspired ;  
Heaven's love he macerates at length,  
But while his pleadings roll,  
The congregation is his strength,  
Some lady there, his soul.

The suave historian portrays  
As he would have it seem,  
And straightens out a nation's maze  
Like Joseph, Pharaoh's dream :  
Not miracles can make us see  
Beyond convincing sense,  
Their local probability  
Supports the Testaments.

The criminal of an era starts  
Beside some loved hearthstone,  
And tramples over kindred hearts  
To infamy alone ;  
But neither in the hell below  
Nor in the heavens above

Can they the million outlaws know,  
Saved by the fireside love.

The silent boy has memories strong,  
Though he seems not to look,  
He wins the cup inscribed erelong:  
"For Loving of a Book."  
And all his life the local things  
Men marvel where he found;  
His genius drank the haunted springs  
Wherein Narcissus drowned.

Yon miser note, who guards less well  
His lady than his hoard!  
She is not true; a silent yell  
Goes from his broken board.  
On other lands at his decease  
Great wealth he showers free,  
The flower of local injuries,  
Some World's philanthropy.

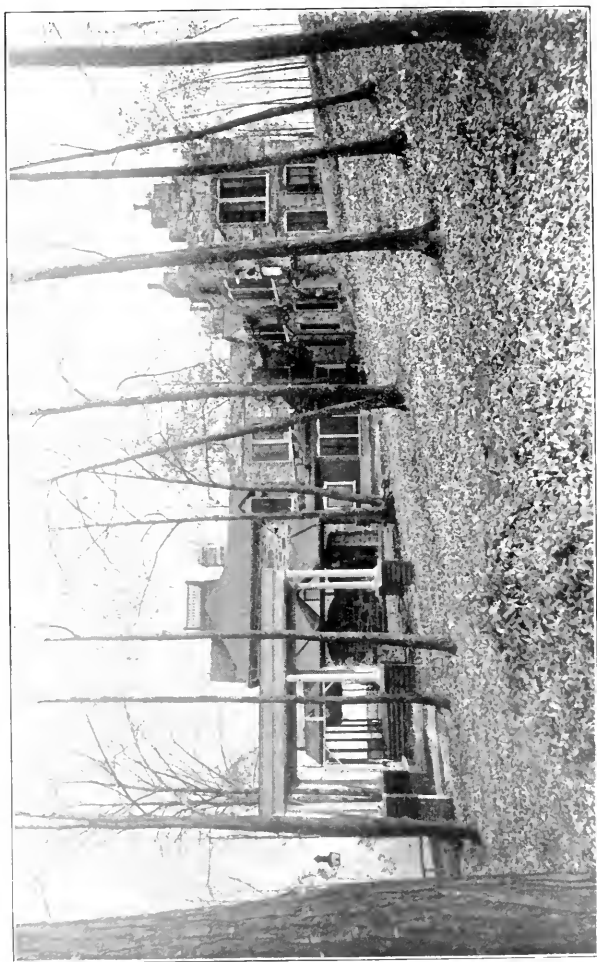
The terror of the village goes  
To its long, glad relief,  
And from some savage border grows  
To be the Nation's chief;  
No clue to his high soul they find  
In his extraction rude;  
His isolation was his mind,  
His virtue Fortitude.

A life that failure has pursued  
Till but its honest grit  
To some volcano's altitude

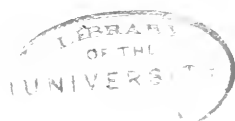
In splendor carries it,  
The Magi of the East go round,  
Their touchstones to employ,  
And nothing but a nugget found, —  
His father's country boy.

A millionaire some goddess fair  
To his protection draws,  
And thinks she fell into his snare, —  
Himself the great first cause ;  
But all his joys, the vagrant boys,  
Her idle townsmen had ;  
From huts they stray their wanton way,  
Who make the monarchs glad.

Not palaces these sweets enclose  
That every hamlet keeps —  
The perfume of the wild, wild rose,  
The laborer who sleeps,  
The young heart that its mate has caught,  
The tears poor mothers shed,  
The Self in only second thought,  
The baby and the dead.



GARLAND HALL, FROM THE WEST





## MARYLAND POEMS

## NEEDWOOD

UNDER the blue South Mountain, Needwood, the  
home of the Lees,  
Stands in the flowing springs and among the  
exotic trees ;  
An old gray house, mysterious, like a Zurbaran  
monk,  
Cowling his face in the shadows that into his soul  
have sunk.

Once 'twas a school of learning, drawing the  
planters' youth  
To the classical keeping of Reverend Bartholo-  
new Booth :  
He, a recusant rector, hewed him a school of logs  
Out in this western exile, ancient of pedagogues ;  
Washington's nephew, Bushrod, under his Latin  
was drudge,  
Here on the lawn of Needwood starting to be a  
judge ;  
Often in court he nodded, dreaming his brain was  
cooled  
By the long verdurous mountain over his copy-  
book ruled.

Thomas Sim Lee came sleighing over the fences  
and rigs,

From Prince George, with his lady, Mary of Mel-  
wood-Digges,  
He was a second son's second, landless except in  
wife,  
Almost as tall as a giant and born for the era of  
strife.

Soft as a glove are the Lees and corded in neck  
like the bull;  
Wide were the lands of Needwood rolling and  
beautiful,  
Let down between the mountains like an apron of  
flowers,  
And the blue distance castled with Nature's bat-  
tlement towers.

Thomas's kith in Virginia headed the war for a  
nation,  
Thomas's lands and stature singled him out for a  
station;  
He was domestic and settled but of such is the  
mastiff and ready one,  
Maryland made him her governor after the war  
was a steady one.

He had a work to do after the South was invaded  
And all the Chesapeake rivers British blockaded;  
Shifted the base of the war to the Maryland moun-  
tains,  
Flour and whiskey and beeves to be fed from their  
fountains;

Wagons and vessels to press with a tact and up-  
rightness,  
*Noblesse* of France to amuse and entreat with  
politeness ;  
Down at Annapolis day was all straining anxiety,  
Night was all dancing and loveliness, state and  
society.

Thus, Cornwallis was taken and Needwood was  
home again ;  
Lee from his lands and his dear ones hoped never  
to roam again,  
But to watch harvests' and winters' annúal re-  
volving,  
And her blue floodgates of mountains Potomac  
dissolving.

But the old drums continental rolled his reëlection.  
Out in the West had the whiskey folks made  
insurrection ;  
Soldiery streamed through the State like the gold  
in a pennant,  
Under his cousin, Hal Lee, the Commander's  
lieutenant.

Carroll of Carrollton, Hanson and Harper, his  
cronies,  
Visited Needwood in coaches or canvassed on  
ponies ;  
Singly the Maryland Fed'ralists had to be baited,  
Like the lone wild cats that lasted till exter-  
minated.

Beat, then, the *revellé* over his lifetime of action,  
Triumphed o'er Washington's friends the Virginia  
faction ;  
Of Madison's cabinet craven, the governor read  
would,  
Chased from their burning metropolis, almost to  
Needwood.

But on his age and Tom Johnson's, his governor-  
neighbor,  
Fell the sweet notes of the human birds piping to  
labor,  
Building the road to the West and the Armorers  
merry,  
Tinkering muskets and sabres close by, at the  
Ferry.

Far waved his wheat like his panther rugs yel-  
lowed by fire ;  
Stacked like the arms of his armies, his corn rows  
retire ;  
Dropped in his dozing the tinkle of church bells  
ancestral, —  
Plenty and Liberty sang him their anthem or-  
chestral.

Farms he divided from Needwood to daughters  
and sons ;  
Pure in their paths were his seed as their kinsfolk,  
the nuns ;  
So he passed out of the vista of life like a bird,  
That in the deep vault grows lesser and, last, is  
not heard.

Cannon of civil war belching and squadrons like  
bees  
(When on the South mountain passes the last of  
the Lees  
Fought for he knew not what) wakened him  
never:  
Thomas Sim Lee had passed over the blue bar  
forever!

Needwood, old manse! long neglected, thy  
shadows of trees,  
Hug round thee of moonlight and mingle their  
ghosts in the breeze;  
Thy form, antiquated, pieced out and partitioned  
and shrunk,  
Seems the cells of a soul's transmigration, but ever  
a monk.

## PACKHORSE FORD

(NEAR SHEPHERDSTOWN, VA.)

THE Stone Age man learned first the ford, by  
hammer stones his footing taught;  
The bison next, which dammed the flood and with  
his dusty nostril, thought;  
The Indian from his moccasins their deer foot  
crossing instinct caught.

The wild goose had it in his blood and squawked  
the trail the panther dyed,  
The wild crane stalked the ford for pike and  
stood a guide post, man to guide,

The river in more shallow tones expressed the  
shallows it might hide.

So, when the hunted outlaw came, he saw the  
trodden ramparts slant,  
The trail go down and reappear like ends of rain-  
bows consonant;  
He told the peltry hunter where to guide the  
woods-lost emigrant.

From Rhenish plains where feudal fields minions  
of barons taxed upon,  
And Baltic coasts and Holland swamps, some  
wilderness in right to own,  
A living river found the ford while planets  
brooded Washington.

The Golden Horseshoe picnic knights from one  
blue Gap had looked afar,  
Then, sank in tideland like the orb that is both  
morn and evening star,  
Before the Germans flanked the sun, slow as their  
Georgian calendar.

Behind the mountain lines they slid along the  
crystal drains of snows,  
And found the Tuscarora's gaps he ambushed  
for Catawba foes,  
And passed the ford at dusk's red hour while  
sunset's vizor masks and glows.

Potomac's flowing cools their lives and in the  
ripples cattle bend;

The packhorse feels his burden fall, the smith's  
fire smokes the kit to mend ;

Their white knees laving, as they pray, the songs  
of pilgrim maids ascend :

Stout Luther's hymns and Baptist staves from  
John of Leyden's choral tongue,

And Simon Memmo's madrigals, the Dunker  
lovers tuned 'among ;

They stood upon Virginia's rim and every hope  
was virgin young.

The katydids the hollow night with their re-  
sounding snoring fill,

The Switzer whistler calls to him the country-  
wondering whippoorwill,

Leaps in the moonbeam gleaming trout and into  
Echo sounds distil.

Yost Hite and Jan Van Meter led the Teutons to  
their grants of space ;

Above the ford New Mecklenburg glassed in the  
river lake its face,—

Lord Fairfax measured all within his patent tied  
with royal lace.

At Greenway court his banished life in As You  
Like It joys were sinned,

Young Washington invaded there for Liberty, his  
Rosalind,

And stretched Virginia's sandal foot far as the  
Ganges of our Ind.

The men of Morgan crossed the ford nor stopped  
till Boston's siege they swelled,  
They drowned the fame of Gates and Lee who  
past the Packhorse crossing dwelled,  
And greeting them, his old chainmen, the great  
Surveyor's eyes o'er welled.

To Rumsey's steamboat screamed reply the fierce  
bald eagle o'er the ford,  
As the experimental trip the Cincinnati's chiefs  
record:  
A thousand years are but a day to Evolution and  
the Lord.

The bridges o'er Potomac span, and still the old  
ford had its loves;  
Josephs and Maries came this way, untaxed amidst  
the thirsty droves  
That panted down the cool ravines and lapped the  
pools by willow coves.

Then, closed the vine its vestibules and river  
travelers knew it not;  
The Packhorse Ford in slumber lay like some old  
ferry right forgot  
Till on its bank, Armies appeared, roused by an  
angry nation's shot.

The natural route of savage times the savage  
issues had restored  
And like the loadstone to its star, Northward  
revolved the gleaming sword;  
Redder than sunsets was the blood that swelled  
the moan o'er Packhorse Ford.



As, hereabout, the ridges cease, in countermarches  
parallel,  
South Mountain in the Short Hills lost, the Blue  
Ridge in Elk Mountain's swell,  
Reverberated on the ford the Northern cheer, the  
Southern yell.

Antietam, Gettysburg respond to Strasburg's roar  
and Winchester's ;  
The armies, like the bison, dam the waters that  
the guns immerse ;  
Then, swiftly, peace grew like the corn and Free-  
men's was the universe.

The armies paused as, on the Rhine, the German  
host and German France  
Held truce in times of Charlemagne and perished  
every dissonance,  
Except the finished German tongue and the soft  
parley of Romance.

A blended race one destiny swelled like Potomac's  
current down,  
Each old ingredient making rhyme in the Ameri-  
can renown ;  
The old ford still its beauty held, like lovely girls  
of Shepherdstown.

The raccoon ogled with the doves that cooed  
above in sycamores,  
The fisher cast his fly for bass, wading upon the  
pebbled floors,  
And grounded on the hidden path the skiff with  
its suspended oars.

How lovely everything appears, as if composed  
it ever stood!

We do not see the prints of time beneath the  
riffles and the flood.

The ford that our forefathers crossed is in the  
river of our blood.

### FREDDIE'S CLOCK

"NOTHING to eat ; neither pork nor crock,—  
We must sell the old tall Clock !"  
Dandy Grimes with a tear in his eye  
Kissed wife Freddie a smug good-bye.

She was used to being alone ;  
Only the Clock she could call her own :  
Its two cherubs, the Sun and Moon,  
Her sole babies, would leave her soon.

'Twixt them, upside, rode a ship ;  
'Twixt them, downside, a house did slip ;  
Human-faced were the Moon and Sun :  
Save these babies, Freddie had none.

Everything had been sold to live :  
Dandy was shiftless and fugitive.  
Now he had gone away in the snow :  
How the wind on the cape did blow !

Middletown valley the snowdrifts block  
From the creek to the high White Rock ;  
Midst the mountains the old frame house  
Was going down, like her ruined spouse.

Orphan child, she had married him, —  
So parental, important, prim, —  
Cradle he gave her but nothing to rock,  
Only the twins in the old tall Clock.

Now he was old and she was young;  
Over a Poor House fate she hung:  
Faithful, filial, never at times  
Saw she a life beyond Dandy Grimes,

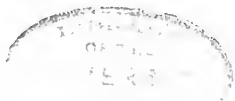
Close to the old tall Clock she stood,  
In its coffin of cherry wood,  
Varnished, respectable and plumb;  
Staid as she to her pendulum.

Round its fading dial of white,  
Gold and colors remained as bright  
As the face of Freddie in tears,  
Midst her dial of golden years.

Tall as the minute hand her stand:  
Dandy was shrunk like the hour hand.  
Merry as Dandy, full of his swig,  
Clicked the second hand's thingumagig.

But the Moon with its hairless brow  
Wondered, black-eyed, at Freddie now;  
Red its cheek as an apple's blush,  
Ticking to hear from her: "Baby, *hush!*"

"O, how lonely I will be,  
Children, dear, when ye go from me!  
Time I will know by the farmers' bells  
When my little ones Dandy sells.



“Down in the Poor House of Montévue  
Frederick’s bells, I will think, are you, —  
By-o-babies !” was Freddie’s cry —  
Sobs were choking her lullaby.

Fire went out and Freddie, wrapped  
In her last thin coverlets, napped, —  
Feeling the old house tremble and rock,  
Hearing the notes of the old house Clock.

Dreaming of officers fetched from far,  
Friends of her father in the great War, —  
Some she nursed, in her child’s short frock :  
“Tick ! tick ! tick !” said the old tall Clock.

There was one, who had called her “Wife” ;  
Saying her beauty would scent his life ;  
Saying her youth was his hollyhock :  
“Tick ! tick ! tick !” said the old tall Clock.

“Where is Dandy ? I hungry grow :  
He is feeble and deep the snow !  
Dandy has neither a glove nor a sock.”  
“Tick ! tick ! tick !” said the old tall Clock.

Sudden, sleigh bells trembled a-cold :  
Stood in the doorway a stranger bold,  
Saying, “Pardon me not to knock !”  
“Tick ! tick ! tick !” said the old tall Clock.

“Are they dead like the old man here,  
I have fetched in my sleigh, his bier ?  
Frozen woman ! no fire ! no sock !”  
“Tick ! tick ! tick !” said the old tall Clock.

Making a fire of the farmer's fence,  
Chafing her body without pretence, —  
Fair as a child in her frozen smock,  
("Tick ! tick ! tick !" said the old tall Clock.)

The good stranger performed his task,  
Warmed her throat from his brandy flask,  
Called her "Freddie, his hollyhock" —  
"Tick ! tick ! tick !" said the old tall Clock.

She arose in a fine man's arms,  
Bare as the house were her tingled charms :  
"Dandy is frozen !" she cried with a shock :  
"Tick ! tick ! tick !" said the old tall Clock.

"Child ! who nursed me out of my death !  
Take back from me the warmth and breath  
I remembered from thy limbs' lock !  
("Tick ! tick ! tick !" said the old tall Clock.)

"Not thy face, though it is as sweet :  
I remember thy beautiful feet,  
Straight as the corn ere the battle's shock :  
("Tick ! tick ! tick !" said the old tall Clock.)

"Far have I come, in a widower's glow,  
To thy bloom, in the pure, white snow ;  
Round thy poverty snowbirds flock.  
("Tick ! tick ! tick !" said the old tall Clock.)

"I have the blessing men call wealth ;  
Thou hast the riches of beauty and health :  
Take my name and adorn my gold !"  
Freddie clasped him, it was so cold :

“Do not sell my Clock from me! —  
Its dear babies will honor thee.  
They are the last of Dandy’s stock :”  
“Tick ! tick ! tick !” said the old tall Clock.

### YERTES’ SPRING

(NEAR GAPLAND)

“THE fairy spring wells up from sands,  
Beneath the mountain’s heavy hands,  
And from its pebbly basin’s bath  
A brook’s white feet have worn a path,  
While circling round, old beech trees dream,  
Like eunuchs guarding an harem ;  
So close beneath the mountain bowed  
It seems a lakelet in a cloud.”

Lionel said so, bending him  
Over the percolating brim  
Whose many sources flash and cease  
With effervescing, silent peace :

“Could I some elf-appointment make,  
At midnight, by this spring-starred lake,  
Imaginations might arise  
Like to these twinkling, fluvial eyes  
Within my fluent cells of brain  
That fill with thoughts like springs of rain !”

A pheasant boomed his thought away,  
A crow called downward “stay ! stay ! stay !”

Lionel bathed him in the pool  
And, lying down, with life blood cool,  
Fell into sleep, till midnight drew  
Between the peaks her baldric blue.

Lionel woke. The fairy lin  
Spirits effulgent held within;  
From every vortex whirled a sprite,  
A quivering lily, chemised white,  
A lady toiletted for night.

He thought the Dunker maids, baptized,  
Had lingered here etherealized,  
From the near settlement sedate  
On Love feast night to recreate;  
But as he sidled round the rim  
Their white arms flashed to signal him,  
Their voices like the cascade sing:  
"Thou hast desired us at the spring."

Lionel old drew near to list:  
The first young maid he ever kissed  
Dandled upon a silver jet—  
He breathed the osculation yet;  
She said, "My love, our love was brief,  
As in my eddy spins a leaf!"  
Another nymph Lionel sprayed,  
A different and a country maid:  
Sigling "beneath a bridge at dark  
You were my daring city spark!"  
Another Naiad's voice liquate  
Flowed, "Love came to us through a gate!"  
A fourth with rhythm like a rune,

“Lionel, once in my ripe June  
I lower’d my eyes that flashed a dart  
Into thy uncourageous heart!”  
“We never touched,” said one, “our lips,  
Only our trembling finger tips,  
But they remembered it till dead!”  
Another, “Love, we rioted,  
Like these swoll’n sources after storm:  
Long have I banqueted the worm!”  
“Widow am I, than thou more old, —  
Thou would’st have wed me when boy-bold!”  
“Lionel, I am one, whose grief,  
At my cold hearthstone, for relief,  
Fled to thee like a maniac:  
Thou wert a friend and led me back!”  
“I, one illiterate, in a mart  
Who read thy exile with her heart!”  
“I am the Nun whose holiday  
Thy touch made everlasting May!”  
“I, twinkling from this spiral sill,  
Am she whose action was thy Will!”  
“And I, thou called Rose beauteous  
And would have twisted from her pride,  
For womanhood lived duteous  
And scenting Virtue for thee, died!”

Thus, from the mountain syphon rise  
To Amoroso’s faded eyes,  
His nymphs, who in life’s sources moved,  
Exhilarated, bubbled, loved;  
Returned in hydrostatic power —  
They were a hundred in an hour, —



Flowing from Lionel's brain cells  
And from the menstruum of the wells ;  
Earth's drip from out her cavern chasm  
And waste of parent protoplasm, —  
The saturation of life's plant  
And spill of Pluto's adamant.

Upon the sand-baked mountain's lymph  
Glides each liquescent, fluent nymph ;  
And each one, had it vorticed well,  
Might have been dame to Lionel !  
Each had combined with his some part,  
'Livened some recess of his heart,  
To its pain's ache her balsam lent  
And purled away its sediment.

The constellations over pass  
And in the Spring a period glass,  
Each shattered in the short embrace  
By life's resurging in its face.

Life's active Spring, pneumatic strong,  
Retains no orb's impression long,  
No dalliance can make it glow,  
Like energy of birth below.

The pressure of the life to be,  
On everything lies equally ;  
And like the bubbles, which escape,  
One or another takes our shape.  
For momentary is love's touch,  
The hungry one his food must clutch,  
The pair that float adown the stream  
Give and receive the instant's gleam !

Lionel felt that all was good,  
And man's refreshment, womanhood ;  
Love's every passing chemistry  
Had left some immortality.  
The scent of its capricious hours,  
Was still like banks of graveyard flowers ;  
She who in myrtle's streamlets lies  
And sends up tendrils of blue bell,  
Entwined our instant's destinies  
And kissed our heart up from a well.

The camps of stars put out their lights ;  
Day breakfasted upon the heights  
And sowed with gold the furrowland ;  
Lionel's hand was in some hand :  
"What were they, husband?" said his wife.  
"*Bubbles, once beautiful, of life !*"

#### BALTIMORE

HANGING from the bay bough's azure heights —  
Affluent bough like matron's flowing breast —  
Baltimore in black and golden lights  
Flashes like the oriole from its nest ;  
Round the red warehouses on their slips,  
Through the old commercial city's maze,  
Stands a phantom fleet of yarded ships,  
Rumbles the long serenade of drays.  
  
First of Western cities in our land,  
Last born sailor-city of the East,  
Inland reached its pike-roads like a hand,

Oceanward, like Venice, it increased.  
Washington beheld it as a weed,  
Ere he died its splendor looked upon,  
Growing with the genius and speed  
Of its one compeer, Napoleon.

He, the Doge of Europe, reaching o'er,  
Adriatic Chesapeake to wed,  
Dropped a wedding ring in Baltimore,  
Left his last successor in its bed;  
Still its beauteous women like the noon  
With their dusky eyelids' sweeping wings,  
Give the strangers' heart a summer swoon;  
Whom they love are happier than Kings.

Fleeing Congress sought it a retreat;  
Base of vict'ry gathered at Yorktown;  
Samson grinding in its mills of wheat,  
All the bayports fell to its renown.  
Iron, marble, bitumen and brick  
Grew as shellfish near its deep'ning piers;  
Landsmen banded in its *mécanique*;  
All its water-men were privateers.

Athens might old tyrants fawn upon;  
Spartan Baltimore, our young recourse,  
Formed her phalanx around Madison —  
Taught America another force.  
When our flag the smoke o'er Henry clomb,  
Key's bright anthem, in spontaneous flow,  
Arched it like the streaming of the bomb —  
Arch that rounded in the pool of Poe.

As the blue streams flow toward the bay  
And the golden wheat toward the mills,  
To the milling city take their way  
Blue and flaxen Germans from the hills.  
Like the twilights on the Chesapeake,  
Which through crystal bars their purple pour,  
Latin, Creole, Moorish contrasts streak  
British, Celtic, Baltic Baltimore.

Stepping down the spires to the ships,  
Like the cascades from their woodland wells,—  
Like the melodies of lovers' lips, —  
Chime the foundry city's tender bells,  
And the pungy fleet from Eastern Shore  
Skimming like the wild fowl on the dawn,  
Brings the pearly sweets to Baltimore,  
Riding in the basin like its swan.

First in War, his column calm upon,  
Stands the great Virginian, looking o'er,  
Where the victor ranks of Wellington  
Broke before the boys of Baltimore;  
And the last survivor, left alone  
Of the Magna Charta's daring theme,  
Laid the nave's cathedral corner-stone  
O'er the young nativity of Steam.

As the tree its annual growth compiles,  
Binding silently the circle's marks,  
Grew the beech tree Annual of Niles,  
Budded evergreen the staff of Sparks.  
O, ye merchants! on your commonweal

Sits the raven, saying "Nevermore"  
To the native palette of your Peale;  
Wirt and Kennedy were Baltimore.

Forum of the Capital, herein  
Met the Tribunes in Convention first,  
Making Presidents amidst the din,  
Where the local factions fretted worst;  
Jackson broke Virginia's cabal,  
Pierce, Van Buren passed the chariot score,  
Lincoln crowned upon the Lupercal  
Faced his martyrdom from Baltimore.

As for Helen's beauty, all the Greeks  
Troy besieged, the valiant armies tore  
All thy ports and plateaus, Chesapeake!  
For thy bloom's possession, Baltimore!  
In thy heart two spouses did contend  
And to each one thou had'st given thy hand,  
But the ring thou cherished to the end  
Was thy mother's blessing, Maryland!

Gliding in the current like the boat,  
That in times colonial was their chaise,  
Dove-pure, in the hurly-burly float  
Faces of the old tidewater days;  
Matrons of the Marylander peace,  
Daughters of the old housekeeping life;  
In their arms is "Multiply! Increase!"  
In their souls, religion of The Wife.

As the white mists go up from the bay  
To the marble heights that oversee,

All the life colonial clears away  
To the city's higher destiny.  
On the railways of the mainland shore,  
Midst the Cinque Ports' warden cities strung,  
Shines the jewel light of Baltimore,  
Like a star, Orion's Belt among.

### SIR JOHN ST. CLAIR

#### BUILDER OF THE FIRST ROAD ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS

His name is lost save in a brook of water  
That darkly plunges down a forest glen,  
Like that lean army pioneered to slaughter  
Through lonely shades to horrible Duquesne;  
But in the road he hewed across the mountains,  
Where Braddock sleeps beneath his wagon wheels,  
A living brook goes on from Eastern fountains,  
No wars arrest, no killing frost congeals.

His was the skiff that hardily descended  
The wild Potomac to the roaring falls,  
His were the floats the soldiery befriended  
To pass the torrent, under mountain walls;  
His were the bridges over the Opequan  
And the Antietam in the morn of time,  
Crossed by a multitude no man can reckon  
To sceneries and destinies sublime.

Behind his axes formed the van of movement,  
His picks and shovels were the conquering  
swords;

And in the rift of light he ope'd, Improvement  
Went single file, through hidden savage hordes,  
Until the pack mules with their bells were merry  
Where rolling drums in vain inspired the fight,  
And sheep and shepherds tarried by the ferry  
That drowned a host amidst the battle's fright.

High-mettled Scot! thine is no glory hollow:  
Shall we forget thee in our Westward Ho? —  
When thy canoe the laden barges follow  
And up thy path the steaming engines blow?  
No! while the sky the Alleghany arches,  
The good road builder's name shall be revealed:  
Sir John St Clair's victorious army marches  
Above the army lost on Braddock's field.

1874.

## SOUTH MOUNTAIN

A BROWN STUDY

BILL! my black horse, end your pawing!  
We must have our Sunday canter  
On the sky line of South Mountain:  
Take it easy, Billy! Saunter!  
Till, above the Gap, five hundred  
Feet you rise and find the level,  
Then, warmed up, your eye and nostril  
Take the beauty of the devil  
And you show me kingdoms many,  
Fertile valleys bounding free,  
But your horse sense never mentioned

“Take them all and worship me!”  
Nature’s worship is the freest from idolatry.

Like Bellerophon’s high saddle,  
Ramps the gap of Solomon,  
Where the Blue Ridge swerves Potomac:  
Drooping low, its course is done.  
Like its colts, low mountains gambol  
Round its neck, in woodlands bended;  
To McClellan’s height they ramble  
And Antietam’s vale extended  
Far as Kittatinny’s wand, —  
Nation-vale of Cumberland.

Southward, valleys like white arms  
Separate from breathing charms  
Of pink hillocks; Cupid’s locked in  
Venus mountains of Catoctin:  
Through their embrasures I see  
Aurora kiss Monocracy.  
Four republics interlock  
From the dome of the White Rock;  
Penn and Calvert, Smith and Brown,  
Circle round me their renown.  
Bayward, like an antistrophe,  
Tiptoes, tender Sugarloaf.

O! how silent in the air,  
Whilst the churchbells low to prayer!  
Here, where thunder clouds are riven  
And the Christians quail at heaven,  
Not a being, scarce a bird,  
In the golden light is heard



Of this long cathedral nave,  
Where, of yore, the hunted slave  
Walked this mountain's bulwark far,  
Worshipping the polar star,  
Hoping to escape the rod  
Of them, downward, praising God !  
And the high-souled mountain, free,  
Leaped at birth from slavery, —  
Without company set forth  
For its destiny in the North ;  
Striding rivers, till it passed  
To New England's rock, at last.<sup>1</sup>

Where the edged-up rock is crusted  
Hangs a shelf of green *débris*,  
Like a mantel for Penates  
In the Greek mythology  
And along its cornice groovèd,  
Riding o'er the deep abyss,  
To be Ovid, I am movèd,  
In a metamorphosis.  
What is that I see, resolving  
From a rock, to be a man ?  
By his flat nose and his hoofness,  
'Tis the pagan fellow, Pan !

<sup>1</sup> The South Mountain of Maryland is the Blue Ridge of the South, or rather its countermarch, beginning a few miles south of the Potomac, while the Blue Ridge dies out a few miles north of the Potomac, near Antietam battlefield. The "fault" or dislocation is so marked, that the sections of former Slavery and Freedom appear to be broken by nature, in these oppositely-proceeding ridges.

“Buy my rattler’s rattles, Mister?  
I hoodooed the snake with words:  
Me and him was brother and sister—  
Hissed and kissed like a couple of birds!”

“Pan, thou rascal! Well I know thee!—  
Son of Dryops, Hermés by:  
Woods and mountain were thy parents,  
Tangled in the tingling sky!”

“Hi yi! Mister, you’re on to me  
And your Greek I understand;  
When they Christianized old Hellas  
I moved into Maryland.  
Every preacher has a sect yer  
And United Brethren split,—  
Sunday mornings, how they lecture,  
When the old zinc churchbells quit!  
Nymphs and swains I make afraid;  
My South Mountain thunder storms  
Beat all preachers in the trade,  
And I sell all the Reforms.  
Breeches hide my fetlocks hairy,  
I go courting like a younker,  
And trail up the mountain fairy  
With my long beard, like a Dunker.”

“Pan, I like thee; come with me!  
Let us worship Poetry!”

“My splithoof is no soft sock:  
I will race you to Black Rock!

There I have a noble fountain,  
Wrist-thick, plunging from the mountain,—  
Nectar hidden in a spring,  
Jove's own cuckoo bird, to sing:  
Give your snaffle-bit release:  
Follow me to Gods and Greece!"

Scarce my horse could keep in sight  
Pan, who skipped from Gap to height;  
All the battle crest he passed,  
Now and then a smirk to cast  
Back to me, to beckon on,  
When the folks to church had gone;  
In his head I seemed to trace  
Satyr Lincoln's kindly face,  
Who his armies thence did see,  
And made all the sorry, free.  
When his pipe friend Pan inhales  
Fancy may free all the vales,  
Move the stones of ignorance  
And make stocks and reptiles dance!

Worship hushed their hector tune,  
As we lost the bells of Boon,  
And betwixt two mountains strode,  
Up a ravine-smothered road.  
Then unto the ridge we cling,  
Till we, three, bend to a spring,  
And we hear a chorus rise  
From the woodlands to the skies.

"Hist!" said Pan, and horn-piped free:  
"Hear Grandfather's family!"

## THE IMMORTALS

Father! 'twas thy power  
 Sired us life's fond hour! —  
 Thy delight bequeathed  
 When thy strong love breathed:  
 Bless thy wilful rove!  
 We are thine by Love.

Mother! 'twas thy charm  
 Made thy lover warm!  
 And the mingled blood  
 Cannot but be good:  
 Bless the nuptial grove!  
 Thou art ours by Love.

## JOVE, JUNO, LETO, THEMIS, DIONE

Children! Human fruit!  
 Evil to impute  
 To the hands that pull  
 Ye, life beautiful,  
 Is life to reprove!  
 Ye are ours by Love.

## PAN AND THE BIRDS

The mountain is so slim,  
 There is only room for him  
 I bring this Sunday prim,  
 To know the Gods of old —  
*Cheery jug hoo-e, pu twit chee!*  
 He loves them for themselves,  
 The woods and fauns and elves;

His repartee is bold,  
And he dropped at once on me :  
*Jug jug cheery, ha tu pu tsee !*

Than from the black firs nigh,  
As startled vultures fly,  
There came a fluttering, —  
Great shadows shook a-wing, —  
And Pan to me exclaimed :  
“Push on or be heaven-shamed !”

He stooped upon his haunches  
And bent aloft the branches.  
I followed on the ledge  
Out to the mountain's edge,  
And such a landscape burst  
Upon my sense, that first  
I gave not Gods their duty,  
In our own Planet's beauty.

The whole world seemed my own,  
And I its lover lone,  
The great Black Rock my throne.  
Its broken pulpits swing  
Dizzily staggering  
Up from the *débris* scorched,  
Where furry forests, torched,  
Blackened the acres strown  
Of mountain overthrown,  
Then grew again in stone :  
Pluto's wide blasted mines,  
Encompassed by green pines,  
That like concentric waves

Moaned in the mountain caves,  
And, farther, yet away,  
The lands like ocean lay, —  
Towns, woods in fainter tone  
Fading into a zone,  
Till nothing was defined,  
But magic, on the mind  
And Love, that thrilling is,  
Like fear before the kiss.

“O! blue Ægean waves  
Of land, that Hellas laves,  
Among the isles of arts, —  
Along the Lydian marts,  
And Thessalonian caves!  
Can no Minerva sway  
Thy dull inertia?  
No Graces oversee  
Thy Christianity?  
No Muses come to teach  
The dervishes who preach?  
Nor wake the moral Three  
Who sleep eternally?  
Xerxes is overthrown  
But Pallas is unknown.  
Venus is Vulcan's love  
But where is golden Jove?  
Olympian genius, rise!  
And charm our destinies!”

The sound of sledges, breaking  
Of gravestones, for a larking,

And ba-a-ing lambs a-quaking,  
And cut-throat dogs a-barking,  
Came to me, echoing up,  
Like Tantalus's cup.

“Welcome, thou friend of Pan!”  
A hidden voice began.

Around me, on the rocks,  
In store clothes and in frocks,  
A gypsy party lay,  
In silent holiday, —  
A strolling minstrel band.

All rose and shook my hand.

Behind the life that plods,  
I recognized the Gods.

As one, high Jove, I deemed,  
An eagle rose and screamed.

I said unto him, then,  
“Father of Gods and Men!”

He looked a wise man-reader  
And sapient woman pleader  
And, all around, safe leader.

“Stopped is the world,” said Jove,  
“When Gods do never move :  
We move, where most we love,  
With men, our Goddish boys.  
As urchins love their toys

And think them real things,  
 We are infantile kings.  
 Our origin was wrack  
 But never look we back,  
 No more than suns lament  
 Nebulous sediment:  
 Onward and formative  
 We join or would not live.  
 Conversions we despise, —  
 Sect-makers so entice.  
 A natural man art thou?  
 So are thy Gods, I trow!  
     Strong policy and span  
 Rule all the breathing mass.  
     I love thee, for the Man,  
 That is my looking-glass!"

## CHORUS OF HOURS

Man! for whom Sabbaths were made!  
     Walk in the cornfield and pluck!  
 Hunger, the God thou obeyed;  
     Ere thou couldst see, thou hadst suck:  
 Tottering ere thou couldst talk,  
     Laughing before thou didst teethe,  
 Why shouldst thou crawl, who can walk?  
     Why shouldst thou mope, who can breathe?

## THE GRACES

Woman! for love thou wert born, —  
     Hast thou no goddess of Love?  
 Fade, in the amorous morn,  
     All thy sky sisters above:



Venus the star of the Even,  
Jupiter star of the Morn,  
Moon, the soft mistress of heaven.  
Loveless thy life is forlorn.

## THE MUSES

Mind ! in a barren infinity,  
Lost are thy glorious parts !  
Dwarfed in a mystical trinity  
Tranced are the beautiful arts :  
Fancy, asleep, that enthuses,  
Thought that is stagnant in creeds ;  
Greed has degraded thy Muses,  
Form has enslaved thee with needs.

---

Here, Neptune upon Billy springs :  
The horse immediately had wings  
And bore him off to crystal wells,  
Proud as of winter's sleighing bells.

Mercury, with his pinions loosed,  
(Pan's father) Juno introduced,  
A stalwart dame, who said to me,  
" They libel me with jealousy ;  
Seldom with Jove am I at odds ;  
True Gods are never jealous Gods.  
He is not of that passive lymph  
Jocund to be with one poor nymph,  
He sometimes plays a prank with me,  
To test my femininity :  
I stamp my foot and make him beg."  
(She had a straight, celestial leg.)

"Of all the mothers e'er I saw,  
I would take you for mother-in-law!"

"Here, Hébé, daughter! Lemonade!  
Heaven only keeps one servant maid,  
And, more than one, makes earth's distress,  
Among the servant-scourged *richesse*."

The red bird dyed not the bough-tryst  
Bright as the cup on Hébé's wrist:

"I would that Hébé made a slip —  
Many — betwixt her cup and lip!"

She made me tender Iris know  
And said, "Here is my only bow!"

Mars, in an old blue soldier cloak —  
Frog in his throat, — next to me spoke:  
"This is my friend, Venus the flighty,  
The wife of Vulcan, — Aphrodité!"

A trim brunette raised her grey eyes,  
She was of loving, precious size,  
Her features Greek and regular,  
The soft soul of the evening star.  
She had a vestal, hearthside look,  
Its twilight glow my being shook;  
Her bosom, perfect as the dove,  
Breathed coolest innocence of love.  
Something of trust her quiet shed,  
As on my heart to lay her head.

"O thou for man not always best!  
Whence bringest thou that soul of rest?"

“Man’s mightiest needs I rule,” said she,  
“Mother of Immortality.”

The glorious landscape faded quite,  
Love was a world more infinite;  
No stranger was this lady now:  
Once I had kissed her low, white brow  
And trembled at my daring feint;  
She was my neighbor and a saint.

“Hark! sir, my husband is mending  
Bicycles, for our descending!”

VULCAN

(*Sings.*)

The mountain forges throb no more;  
They lost their iron soul  
When failed the ore banks of the ore,  
The woodlands of charcoal:  
Far West the fuel and the vein  
Into each other flow,—  
But Vulcan’s hammer wakes again  
Echó! Echó! Echó!

(*Echoes repeat.*)

The mountain streams know not the mill,  
Far West the grain fields sweep;  
In ruined mills the whippoorwill  
Lulls, with its plaint, to sleep;  
But tender arts still haunt the glen,  
Light winks the dynamo,—  
And Vulcan loves the sons of men:  
Echó! Echó! Echó!

Now, Pan set up his pipe to blow,  
And all the Gods formed in a row  
To trip it to the spring and spout —  
Apollo led the happy rout, —  
A fine book-agent, starved off here,  
And dieted on atmosphere.

He said "all books these good Dutch lack,  
But one, 'Hagerstown's Almanac.' "

Pallas-Minerva took my arm :  
She had a man-in-woman charm,  
Her precious book to me she lent,  
" Darwin on Species and Descent."

" Goddess," said I, " from Jove's own head, —  
Born never in a mother's bed, —  
Why are not more born from the skull ? "

" Because all would be beautiful."

" Hast thou not loved, who art so kind ? "

" Yes, men love me when they grow blind.  
I am, in their descending life,  
The evening lamp, the second wife.  
No beauty have I to repine, —  
Never youth's wedded concubine,  
My tongue is mellow as my theme  
And leads them to the love Supreme.  
Prudence, my mother, swallowèd,  
Grew, to her time, in father's head :  
He paid of birth the cruel tax,

And was delivered with the ax ;  
Let men so suffer Wisdom's birth, —  
I shall have sisters round the Earth."

Mercury's turtle shell strung lute  
And Minerva's pure toned flute, —  
Jove, bandmaster, singing bass, —  
After Pan's wildpipe made chase.  
To Apollo's harp piano  
Swayed the quiver of Diana.  
Down the wood's track to the glen  
All the troupe went dancing then :  
When Gods are social, so are men.

Neptune's trident surely shook  
From the mountain slide, the brook  
That spills down the cairn and cavern,  
Near the short-lived drinking tavern,  
By whose stone foundations course  
Springlets up without a source,  
Cool as evening mists distil ;  
Cooler yet where bursts a rill  
In the roadlet down the height,  
Like a naked beam of light,  
Or a mountain bather naked,  
Chilled by tourists overtakèd.

As upon a roof's descent  
Pigeons cluster confident,  
On this mountain pitch to sing  
The Olympians drank the spring  
And beneath them, deep and long,  
Earth heard the Libation song.

## JOVE

Mortal! friend! down from my height  
I salute thy gallant worth!  
Rain, Alluvial, Dew and Light  
My libations to thee, Earth!  
Back to me reciprocal,  
Thou libation sendest up:  
Faithful son, thy prodigal  
Father, Jove, drains mutual cup!

## JUNO

Nephew! often in thy night  
To thyself thou slumb'rest dull,  
I stoop o'er thee with my light  
And I see thee, beautiful.  
And I know when I am old  
Welcome in thy home I'll be:  
In her chalice flashing gold,  
Hearty Hera drinks to thee!

## THE GODS

Cousin! take this pledge from us,  
As through youth thy genius plods:  
Steady and industrious  
Thou art pattern to all Gods!  
In thy orbit spaced afar  
Bravely all thy lights are set.  
Glory to thee! little star!  
Thou may'st sway thy system yet!

"Hist!" spoke Pan. "The Dunkers I smell!  
Grandfather! whisker us by thy spell!"  
Whiskers were on us in a flash,  
All but the shaven, beau moustache.  
"Now," cried Pan, "as his special treat  
That one Mortal shall wash our feet!  
Sunday Love Feasts please these churls,  
Washing the feet of the men and girls."

I was girt with a napkin swift:  
Juno's foot stretched out from her shift.  
She as a convert was slightly chipper —  
I thought I had pulled down the Great Dipper.  
Iris's foot was a blue-veined bow;  
A silver thimble was Hébé's toe;  
Diana ne'er had shed but by candle  
The deerskin shank of her corded sandal;  
Pallas-Athena was flat on the sole;  
Venus's foot was sleek as a mole;  
All the Muses declaimed together  
To be assisted out of leather;  
Meek were the Graces for heavenly powers;  
Fidgety feet had the three young Hours.  
Parian cold, from celestial fountains,  
"Beautiful feet upon the mountains!"  
I preached in tingled soul, when through:  
Apollo's wood dove cooed "Cuckoo!"

Leathern scabbard a lady's boot,  
Gleaming sword is her naked foot,  
Armorers tempered it express  
Duelling blade of her loveliness.  
Hand in hand is a soothing sense,

Frank young foot is a confidence.  
 Women none were there at meat  
 When they washed Disciples' feet,  
 Had they brightened that repast  
 Would the Supper have been the Last?

Dunkers, new to the situation,  
 Muttered that man was an innovation  
 The feet of *Schwesters* to dry and cool.  
 Jove said ours was a later school.  
 Languid after the foot-bath rites,  
 Nectar sufficed for our appetites:  
 Cider of pears it seemed to me  
 Or honey and water stung by a bee.  
 "Give us advise!" chirped old St. John.  
 The Dunkers hearing the hymn were gone:

#### APOLLO TO THE DUNKERS

Not everything is God's!  
 Beware the levity  
 To think Olympus nods  
 When trifles trouble thee!  
 Take to the Gods thy joys!  
 Take to thyself thy moan!  
 When life's fulfilment cloy,  
 The failure is thine own.

Some other life had been  
 A substitute for thee:  
 Blessèd art thou of men,  
 By love's fortuity;  
 The bee that finds his queen



High in the golden light,  
Dies in that heaven serene  
For love's wild appetite.

So grasp life's real span,  
Nor cheat thyself with dreams,  
Thou planetary man !  
What is, is but what seems.  
A dead man's helpless hand  
Can never heal thy sore.<sup>1</sup>  
So live to understand :  
Thy children may live more.

The beauteous evening, red and pale,  
Moved slowly up the golden dale.  
"Come forth, sweet Nymphs !" Pan softly blew ;  
We saw their fire-fly eyes shine through  
The bosky woods, their shoulders gleam  
Out of the dripping spring and stream,  
In every rock and shaggy tree  
Coquettish sensibility.  
The charmed snakes, autocthones ran,  
Gliding from serpent forms to man ;  
Tree crickets, members of his quire,  
Resounded to Apollo's lyre ;  
Diana's silver quiver spilled  
Her arrows where the wise owl trilled, —  
Minerva's bird ; and round us browse  
Mercury's herd of mountain cows.  
Jove drew me from those twinkling elves —  
All priests are gentle by themselves.

<sup>1</sup> Healing by a dead man's hand is one of many mountain superstitions.

“Now, tell me, Zeus! why do men,  
When born of women, fall again?”

“Son, why do rocks melt into sands  
Unless to soften fertile lands!  
Climbing to fall, the circle’s revel,  
That once was Nebulous and level.  
Vigor ascends, a radiant star,  
To slide in pleasure back as far;  
No depths, no heights, no fall, no rise,  
No female and no destinies.  
Heaven is a lazy dream of statics;  
The Sibyls’ books are mathematics.

“My sect calls me the great First Cause  
And proves it, by my breaking laws;  
Gods no occasion had to be  
Unless to aid society.  
What need of Gods for blank and dearth?  
Olympian Gods succeeded Earth.  
Man was the model made in clay,  
We were the statues made to stay:  
What made us? Matter! Not some Spell!  
Spell’s Gods are immaterial.  
O Ignorance! reversing laws  
And calling impotence, the Cause!  
Nothing sustains thy faith’s far end,  
But Something is irreverend!  
Was Light made first out of the night?  
Thou knowest Matter to be Light;  
Matter the whirler and the ball,  
And quenchless Matter made us All.

“Why am I, alien from my parts,  
In minds of scholars still a force?  
I supervised real arts  
And was the soul of intercourse.  
Not when my sway was imbecile,  
Did I all people drown but one,  
And millions let go wild until  
I thought to give myself a son;  
My happy reign, my temples grand,  
For Popes the Christian artist paints:  
I was the Genius of my Land  
And made my family its saints.”

Now, by the old burnt tavern's site  
It seemed there was a country fight,  
And to my feet, by discord thrown,  
There fell an apple like a stone;  
Three ladies, Venus, Juno, Pallas,  
Ran after it with pretty malice,  
And each one pleaded, “Give it me!”  
Said Jove: “Name thy divinity!”

The apple could its mistress read,  
Attracted toward her by its seed.  
Had apples three been on the stem  
The ladies three had taken them.  
But like to Eve, I had but one,

And One was in my heart alone.  
In simple mind, a Paris man,  
(Not taking cue from winking Pan),  
I said to Venus, without art,  
“What's mine is thine, my old sweetheart!”

"Nature," said Jove, "is always wit:  
Venus, he is no hypocrite!"  
"Paris I knew," she said, "in France:  
Come be my partner in the dance!"

Now, as it chanced, the thickets from,  
Were Dunkers playing Peeping Tom,  
With mountaineers, whom Jove abhors  
To eavesdrop on his visitors;  
Their wild beard tufted from their throats,  
Jove turned them all to billy-goats;  
Then on the turf beside the spring  
Jove led off with a Highland Fling.  
The Muses and Wood Dryads met  
In a decórous minuet.

Venus with buskin like a glove,  
In somnolent, mesmeric move,  
Grew to me as the woodbines creep  
Or dreams glide in the mind asleep.  
Drowsy the breath she drank of mine  
And hers inspiring as a wine,  
Her motion passive but as close  
As to the rose stem hangs the rose.  
Submission is the female might,  
Her yielding coy and recondite:  
When in the waltz I turned her round  
I seemed to bear her from the ground.  
She brimmed my being with her mould  
And we were timid more than bold,  
Though on my breast her little brain  
Lay like a throb of parting pain.

“Thy horse!” the Goddess faintly sighed,  
“Give me the night wind! let us ride!  
My rivals watch us and their hate  
Means something evil in your fate.”

Her wish, straightway, unto us brings  
Billy, Bellerophoned with wings;  
She raised her foot my hand unto  
And in my palm she left her shoe.

Out in the air and o’er the knolls  
Catocin’s ragged valley bowls,  
We sprang so high that o’er both heights  
We saw the pulsing, pearly lights,  
Amid the plain with hamlets thick,  
Of Hagerstown and Frederick.  
The earth dropped smaller yet and far,  
We entered in a glowing star;  
Its scented atmosphere we clove  
And rested in the planet, Love.  
I felt a chaste, maternal kiss  
And sighed ’twixt holiness and bliss.

“Look out!” spoke Venus, “do not fear!  
See of thy system every sphere! —  
And each does every other draw:  
Attraction is eternal law.  
So thou selected Venus well;  
In equilibrium is her spell,  
She is the tender influence  
Of centre and circumference.  
Be to thine own attraction true,  
And to thy friend will fit my shoe!”

I woke next morn at Gapland Hall  
And found black Billy in his stall.

But though my story is all true,  
I cannot fit that Venus shoe.

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## WASHINGTON CITY POEMS.

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### THE SMITHSONIAN

SEE'ST thou the Abbey of warm stone  
On the green island, orient red?  
What does it here in States our own,  
When feudal Priors long are dead?

Its Baron like the Norman was  
Unto high dukes of bastard kith,  
And gave his fortune's overplus  
Beneath the royal name of Smith,

To us, the land of guardian hope,  
That he a conqueror's rank would score,  
And have his Ishmael brethren cope  
With them who Learning's peerage bore;

Whose cold cabal denied him space  
And made him unto dice betake:  
The gamesters' nature saves the race,  
And sacred issues play a stake.

In foreign exile plighting troth,  
To powers occult he gave his word



CAPLAND LIBRARY AND DES, FROM THE NORTH





(A gracious devil took his oath)  
"The voiceless tyros shall be heard !

"My two proud parents, wilful willed,  
Did shame and gold on me entail :  
I will to bastard Science build  
An Abbey heaven shall aye assail !"

And first Respect refused the trust  
And Patriarchy did control,  
Fire laid the battlements in dust  
And all the fund the People stole.

They built anew the abbey towers  
Around the purpose so grotesque  
And into Gothic tracery flowers  
A fortalice of Romanesque.

And Merlin is its resident,  
Aladdin its conspirator,  
Its regent aye our President,  
Lord Justice its High Chancellor.

What vested fear would fain repress  
Within came forth like vagrant rats  
And cavernous influences  
Worked in the Abbey like the bats.

Original ideas found  
A publication never given,  
A distribution underground,  
A circumvention over heaven.

New mischiefs to facilitate  
And lead the earth some young turmoil,

The Abbey spirits ruminate  
Around a magnet's serpent coil ;

Where humble finders rank their peers  
And Aristotle's laws dispute ;  
A newsboy pulls the Mufti's ears  
And mocks the Royal Institute.

For, o'er that Abbey devil's jag  
A genii's banner flaunts its creed ;  
The unheraldic people's flag  
Waves, of the hordes unpedigreed ;

Their parents did beget them snug  
And secondary made the rite,  
They see not with the sleek and smug  
But with the gift of second sight ;

They see refractedly from straight,  
At no precedent Afrite fright'ning,  
As into Paradise's gate  
The Peri's zigzag glance of lightning.

They diagnose the pretty fibs  
The old nurse tells her nubile boy,  
As in the horse's wooden ribs  
The Greeks the gossip heard in Troy.

This Abbey rests not pilgrim heads  
But sets tall-shafted thoughts a plinth  
And lends the clues that wind the threads  
Through Nature's wizard labyrinth.

The pre-historic man it brings,  
Who knew not metals but in stone

Revell'd with implemental Kings  
And thought the golden age his own.

"Ha! ha!" the Prior laughs in glee,  
"Who cares for thunder, bell or ban?

Matter is immortality  
And no one knows the age of man!

"Ay! thou Sesostri, come and see  
The myths these Western mounds declare!  
Oasis made society  
And Adam's birth was everywhere.

"If fifty thousand years had gone  
Ere to this skill his hand could school,  
How long was it to human dawn  
Before the monkey made a tool?"

Lo! there the Prior's museum  
To mock man's sole decline and fall!  
Where forward to perfection come  
His mechanisms, one and all,

From wheels that are not circular  
And scoop'd boats of idiot wit,  
To telescopes trailed on a star  
That magnify and mirror it.

See! when the long tree shadows wave  
In the electric lantern's track,  
The fallen Prior's lost conclave  
In their Satanic suits of black,

Gather within the Abbey red,  
Around some vampire snail or mole,

As if it were of holy dead  
And they were seeking for its soul!  
See'st thou the slitted windows' height  
On which the sunset broke its heart?  
Within, they burn the pictured light  
That spoiled the churchly Raphael's art!

And see'st thou the battlements  
From which bright fancy's angels fall  
In gravity's incontinence  
And flight unanatomical?

Go not within or say a prayer  
By ceremonies of Pharaoh's corse!  
The skull of wizard Lincoln's there  
And incantation tools of Morse.

So this loose gotten son of dukes  
Himself a dispensation swears,  
Stands not with peers in their perukes  
Nor lets Delilahs clip his hairs,

But from the grave's green, grassy withes,  
He burst a Samson, love-betrayed,  
And heading the heroic Smiths,  
Among the Titans flings his shade.

I hear the sprinkled church bells ring;  
I see on Freedom's dome her fire:  
I will go cite this Abbey's King  
Though he may curse me in his ire:

"Ho, Prior! On thy door I smite!  
This Battle Abbey who begun?"

"*William the Norman I am hight:  
Robert the Devil's bastard son.*"

## MARY OF THE CAPITOL

“ONE of our senators, surely?”

Said the queer old girl to me;

I answered to her demurely

“Only a Member you see.”

“There is something dear about you,”

She said, with an aged bloom, —

“Were I young I would never doubt you :

Is *this* your Committee room?”

“Come in!” I said to the lady, —

’Twas a Saturday holiday —

“Shut the door! it will be more shady :

Are you December, or May?

Whichever, a magnetism

You shed on my widower life.

Your eyes are of crystal chrism, —

You make me think of my wife.”

“O thank you! that sounds so holy!

To many a wife I have been,

Though ever the wayward, lowly,

And penitent Magdalene;

But ever my Lord and Master

I knew from his kingly ken :

’Twas my glory and my disaster,

To worship the Congress men.

“Some women for sailors tarry,

Some are *vivandières* in the camps,

Some Virgins are Wise and marry,

Some are Foolish and trim no lamps :

American or Roman,  
Since this bright world began,  
The proper place for woman  
Is where she comforts Man ! ”

Reluctant admiration  
My cold thoughts melted through :  
“ I see that you love our Nation ? ”  
“ I love all the men who do !  
Great men deserve love younger, —  
More beauteous than men common,  
And ardently did I hunger  
To be some patriot’s woman.

“ I heard a trumpet sounded  
In my quiet countryside,  
I followed the note as it bounded —  
*He* loved me here and he died, —  
Died while my youth betrothing ;  
Our souls were as pure as flame.  
O, could I drop to nothing ?  
Or should I be true to Fame ?

“ Next, an old benevolent gentle  
And a Senator called me his,  
He was moral rather than mental  
But he had a grandfatherly kiss ;  
I found he was somewhat roving  
And it seemed just a little ingrate,  
So I paid him off in loving  
A dashing young Delegate.

“ His State, it was soon admitted, —  
Not I to the wedded state ;

But his frailty I pardoned and pitied,  
And called it political fate.  
Then, a Christian statesman named me his spouse,  
His church, and his bride of affairs ;  
He set me up in a furnished house  
And helped me to say my prayers.

“ They came from near and they came from far,  
Bright spirits born to control,  
As into a well burns a glorious star  
Their ardor drank up my soul ;  
None dared, none needed, my love to buy,  
And my beauty lasted well,  
I yield to love my aged sigh —  
Love is too sweet for hell.

“ Smile not ! I bear my testament,  
Though not just the one who should,  
That women are queer and different,  
But all of the men are good !  
Whenever this poor old life of mine ends,  
I vow by the angels above,  
I parted, with one and all, good friends,  
And never did spite to love !

“ Thank you ! a little wine is good :  
My head it is weak to-day.  
Kind friend, say, am I misunderstood ?  
See I am so old and grey !  
Let all your charity abide,  
And Christ-like may you prove !  
Here is a woman poor in pride  
But rich as God in love ! ”

Her face grew long, her sight was dull,  
 Down sank the old grey head.  
 The old belle of the Capitol  
 Within its walls was dead.  
 Still follow Gods, who most forgive,  
 The loving and unclean,  
 And where the public heroes live  
 There loves the Magdalene.

## CLOTURE

1893.

THE Senate sloths sit up to-night —  
 Dear Kitty come with me ! ”  
 The crowded Capitol was bright,  
 Dark was our gallery ;  
 They crowded me and Kitty so,  
 Her courage to assure  
 My arm around her waist I throw :  
 “ The subject is *Cloture* .”

“ How mad they get ,” said Kitty soon,  
 “ On matters so demure !  
 They rush upon each other close,  
 Is that not like *Cloture* ? ”  
 “ No, *This* more like that thing occult ” —  
 She cuddled up demure :  
 “ I hope we ’ll come to some result  
 And early pass *Cloture* .”

Nought did we hear that blessèd night  
 Yet sat in perfect bliss ;  
 When noise and wrath were at their height



*Cloture* concealed a kiss :

“Are you in favor of repeal!

I think 'tis quite obscure.”

“Light up the subject with your lips! —

Dear Kitty, press *Cloture*!

“Why do we need so much Reserve?

I'm sure we are secure.

I think more faith would give them nerve, —

And therefore more *Cloture*.”

“Kitty, our circulation's high,

This panic may endure,

And Legal Tender's in my eye

If you but say *Cloture*?”

At panic prices we drove back, —

That Herdic tilted sure;

Kitty came sliding down the hack

And all went on cloture:

“I've changed my mind; 'tis nice to wait, —

Engagements can endure.

But never let them close debate

While we can have *Cloture*.”

## GAPLAND POEMS

## GUY LOSEL

GUY LOSEL's heritage in hand,  
He had a daring thought to rove,  
And pleasure find from land to land  
In an inconstancy of love;  
He said Farewell to one, his dove,  
Round whom his springtime blood had purled, —  
Her heart was his did he command;  
She was too modest to reprove  
His flourish cool, "I'm going round the world!"

So, unengaged, he did depart,  
Handsome and liberal and clever,  
Though with some twinges at his heart  
From Mary's beauty so to sever;  
But frowardness is selfish ever  
And Mary's singleness he trusted.  
He named Experience and Art  
The vagrant quests of his endeavor:  
Forbidden fruit, — it was for that he lusted.

He threw himself in British revels,  
They had the pall of Mammon's play;  
French demoiselles were painted devils,  
The Belgic idols broken clay.  
Yonder and farther, yet away,  
Of flaxen Swedes Guy Losel sated

And pined in Pommeranian levels ;  
The Viennese were soulless gay.  
Spain's lazy loose, they all were pawned or mated.

Europe exhausting, lonely, lost, —  
Spite of his wish a Benedict, —  
Guy Losel heathen waters crossed,  
Himself of pleasure to convict.  
He would be loved in candour strict  
Where conscience lax allowed of freedom.  
Arab, Egyptian, Moor, they tossed  
Mocking deceit him to afflict,  
And left his heart a wilderness of Edom.

"Is there no land where pleasure reigns  
And love halts not its choice to ponder?"  
"Not here, for here love has fond pains, —  
'Tis in the next land, — yonder! yonder!"  
The Persians, Guy was told were fonder;  
The Persians pointed Ind to him;  
The Hindoo, Java's lapse explains;  
Javans at China's frailty wonder,  
And China says, "Pleasures in Yedo brim."

"This world is better than its fame.  
Each heart seeks one, so I have found it.  
I have the only heart to blame  
In all the world — I have been round it.  
Some broken heart, I may compound it,  
Exchanging with it my desire,  
But love is never safe with shame.  
One heart I left — O did I wound it? —  
Dear Mary's heart! There are no hearts for hire."

Guy Losel hasted to his city ;  
Mary was blooming like the rose,  
Blushing and *débonnaire* and witty ;  
He lost no moment to propose :  
Her face grew pale, her lips shut close :  
"I am engaged," at last she spoke,  
"You wrote me not." "O God! in pity,  
Reclaim thy word! assuage my woes!  
If I have not thy heart, my heart is broke!"

Penance he did; back round the earth  
In spirit crawled. The time was long.  
Cold was his heart and eke his hearth.  
When vows are passed the chain is strong.  
But woman loves, though man is wrong :  
She could not leave him solitary.  
The night of anguish waked to mirth,  
His sighing ceased in wedding song.  
The land of Houris was the land of Mary.

### TANGIER

FARTHEST away in space and time,  
I take in this Columbian year  
One day its winding lanes to climb —  
The ancient city of Tangier.  
Old was it in Mahomet's dawn,  
Old when the Cæsars ruled these shores ;  
Since ancient nations have withdrawn  
The oldest people are the Moors.

Tarifa's towers our eyes release ;  
Gibraltar's outlines grow more soft,  
The pillars fade of Hercules  
And Atlas holds the world aloft ;  
Atlantic's gales the billows high  
The open roadstead dash upon,  
Beyond the breakers props the sky  
The mountain named for Washington.

He tribute paid to these corsairs,  
Wild, nervous men, who know not fear,  
And while we Christians mutter prayers  
Row to the beach of old Tangier ;  
Row past her mole, Tangier her dower, —  
The sea reflects the shivered beam, —  
When English Charles, Braganza's flower  
Sultana made of his hareme.

The turbaned Customs men scarce nod,  
The saw-toothed walls their gates retain,  
We climb the street that Musa trod  
When Tarik plucked the cross from Spain ;  
A thousand years we backward stem —  
The sight our modern age dispels —  
We are in old Jerusalem  
When Jesus told the parables :

The potter shapes, the blind man grieves,  
The palsied woman starts to walk,  
And yonder marked the Forty Thieves  
On Ali Baba's door with chalk ;  
Aladdin's uncle bawls his lamps,  
The barber bleeds them who would shear,

The camel drivers pitch their camps  
Outside the walls of old Tangier.

I see the Koran teacher's school,  
Where little hairless heads, like eggs  
Some pelican would overrule,  
Wag to the texts he in them pegs;  
And the high caller unto prayers  
Does not disturb him who recites  
Tinkling his bell, on drowsy airs,  
Tales from the soft Arabian Nights.

The squatted Berbers dreamy chant  
In a café some desert troll,  
Love is their sole intoxicant  
And on its kiss no alcohol.  
In hidden haunt, less lewd than poor,  
With lancing height and bowstring thew,  
The anteloped, hussy Moor,  
Dances with filly of the Jew.

In little shops their prices quote  
Dealers in arms and stuffs and balms:  
"All merchants cheat," Mahomet wrote,  
"Therefore do ye requite in alms."  
Though in the mosques we may not see,  
Their socialism feel we may;  
Religion is of Arabs three,—  
Moses, Mahomet, Joshua!

His amputated hand in salt,  
In the high jail, a festering man  
Dies slowly for his desperate fault,—  
The robber of the caravan;

No lawyers here acquit a thief,  
Nor wealth ill-gotten can illude  
Him at Maroc, the Great Shareef,  
Who is of Mahmoud's holy blood.

Plain as the desert round Tangier,  
Whose paths the cactus does not shade,  
Are the few laws they need them here,  
Where are no engines grasping trade ;  
One tyrant answers for a brood,  
And immemorial is his right,  
Marked like the palm's tall solitude  
Against the Atlas mountain's height.

Morocco's state leans on the sky,  
Its moon and stars the Arab's light,  
No Ottoman's fell victory  
Here has usurped a caliph's right ;  
For Muley Hassan's banner green  
He did not get by barbarous force ;  
It streams like yonder green marine  
That bounds in freedom like his horse.

Can we not blend with Islam's life  
Our Christian slavery, so complex ? —  
The scullions' rule, the dress-thralled wife,  
And houses built to tax and vex ?  
Thou desert robber ! my cloak great  
Strip off ! it loads me like a chain ;  
To pass thy enemy in wait  
I'll go with thee, miles, one or twain.

But climate, moisture, living chance,  
More than his Gods make man excel :

O had Arabia conquered France  
She had made gracious Charles Martel! —  
Softened the vandal Christian's clan  
That malt and mead had muddled thick,  
And knighted into Solyman  
The lame, black soul of Genserik.

Beneath my blind she cannot pierce,  
A tall, young Berber mother slips,  
Her babe she drops in hunger fierce,  
She draws a knife, her face she strips,  
And cuts some grass around my inn, —  
Her clean and stringy lines I've booked :  
'Tis by her creed a deadly sin  
That on her charms a man has looked !

Such Moors their conqueror Akbah bought  
With gold, a thousand pieces each.  
To blend their Arab grace with thought,  
O, could their like some Soldan teach  
Woman's religious hate to cease,  
That curses Christians passing through !  
At Tafi let to treat a peace  
And loose the slaves at Timbuctoo.

With such sweet airs as Westward blow,  
From lands where zealots rage in vain,  
The States of Barbary might know  
A wealth they never had in Spain !  
Their beauteous women might be free,  
Their shambles might again be homes !  
As when the Gods of poetry  
Were rich Numidia's and Rome's.



Like desert springs which flood with rain,  
These Berber wastes the sects outpoured  
That deluged Islam's star in Spain  
And withered it like Jonah's gourd ;  
Preachers like Balaam and his ass  
Their sinewy state a sect made be :  
They see the ships of Europe pass, —  
Wild Ishmaels of theology.

This fragment of a former age  
Thrust into Europe's feverish breath,  
Is like our childhood's limpid page,  
Or unawakening, restful death.  
No wheels nor mechanisms here,  
We have no adventitious power,  
And, like the dead in dead Tangier,  
Naked we shall be in that hour !

## BOB WHITE

I HEAR in the orchestral morn,  
Midst the flute, the jewsharp and the horn,  
A bird with a note like a vote,  
Straight and sweet from the throat ;  
Like the voice from the light after night :  
    " Bob White."

I know 'tis the Quail calling so,  
But his language is English, I know ;  
How human the bird with that word !  
By my heart it is heard —  
Like friendship by love done despite,  
    " Bob White."

The friend of his youth he would find,  
There's no name but his friend's on his mind,  
His life is all boyhood and joy, —  
What is constant as boy? —  
O, my friend of the morn and the light,  
Bob White! —

I roved through the stubble with thee,  
Barefooted, to hawbush and tree,  
By brook and by vale like the Quail;  
Every day without fail  
I called at thy gate, early bright,  
Bob White!

You answered, dear partner, my bleat,  
Like the mate of the Quail from the wheat,  
My heart to your halloo pursuant,  
To school or to truant,  
You parted from me not till night,  
Bob White.

The orchards, the fields, they were ours,  
And the sky and the seed and the flowers,  
The farmer, not we, paid the tax;  
At the sound of his axe  
Low whistled our warning or fright:  
“Bob White!”

Where *are* you, my chum, all these years?  
Has the world swallowed you in its fears?  
Or, mated, say, have you a flock?  
Are you hen now, or cock?  
Do I hear you out yonder aright,  
Bob White?

If you, O, the sweet notes again,  
 Raise them boldly, whom ever thy hen! —  
 Say, “Madame, that friend was my first,  
 In the dawn-hour of erst,  
 And he called me, ere you were my sprite,  
 ‘Bob White!’”

Then I will forget night and blight —  
 Do you hear how I whistle, Bob White?  
 O, lonely are all things in truth,  
 But the birds have our youth.  
 Say on, make me boy, set me right,  
 Bob White!

## QUEEN CHRISTINE

FOUNDER OF DELAWARE STATE  
 FONTAINEBLEAU, 1657

FATHER, is he dead? Then I'll confess me:  
 His period is my pause where Aftertime  
 Will lay my book down and consider me.  
 You shall be my posterity and judge!

I had no child but Sweden and foreswore it;  
 Homeless by choice, I chose a homeless staff  
 From generosity; the man just slain  
 Monaldeschi, was nothing but a servant.  
 Marquis I made him like the Marquis Ancre,  
 King Louis' father slew. Italian like  
 He mixed in my concerns, my lonely state  
 Unpitying, set his wits to work to spoil  
 My independence; forged his comrade's hand

And traded in my livery like a traitor.  
His plot he brought me: 'twas assassination;  
Thinking a Queen ten years o'er Sweden's council  
Could be so shallow. "Let me execute him!"  
The jockey swore. The table's turned: he's dead.  
His lesson is not lost on Latindom.  
Let women twit! Christine was crowned a *King*.

Defence I scorn, whose court, like old King Lear's,  
Is where I visit. Am I yet a nun?  
Vasa's resentment certain as his justice  
Wakes in his grandson's child. Father and son  
I executed, ere I abdicated,  
For prodding my resignation ere its time.  
Absolute Queen I pass from throne to Pope,  
No subject anywhere, my rent crown lands,  
My confidence state secrets; treason, death!  
She who of late by armies executed,  
Visited kings with thunders, dyeing rivers  
Blood red, was gloriously commended;  
Heretic then she was, but worth conversion.  
This day I sentenced one, — but one, — all shrived,  
Who articed with me, and mutinied.

What did my Judas sell? That's perished with him:  
I trapped him ere he bit. Was he my lover?  
Cowards will say so for two hundred years.  
Eve had it said of her, all nature's mother.  
Listen, thou priest! 'Twas Knowledge bit us both.  
Knowledge has bit thy church. At Westphalia  
I forced to peace the Thirty Years of war,  
And Toleration was my crown. Therefore  
I took the cross in Lenity's crusade,

To minimize the consequence of creeds,  
Nor ever have I Sweden asked to follow.

I went to Rome to help the milder dawn,  
When warring sects shall merge their strength  
for earth,

And fill the moats of feudal states with Heaven,—  
Sunlight's illusion on the cold-throned Alps,  
Mass's illusion in smug churchmen's hearts,  
Women's illusion in their sex-sick heads, —  
Heaven, not hell, makes earth yawn wide from  
man,

And draws its small portcullises of churches  
Upward or down like selfish castellans.

My filial shame was Christ's triumphant day:  
A white-horsed Amazon, the penitent  
Rode like Alaric or the Vandal king  
Through Rome: Herodias with her father's head.

Then French and Spanish parties played for me,  
Like Pilate's Roman dicers. Up I gat  
With my small *suite* and sought politest France.  
Italians ruled it; Mazarin, step-monarch,  
His nieces, queens. Ladies wore warriors' crowns.  
None felt my sarcasm when the magdalen,  
Ninon de l'Enclos, mistress of an abbé,  
I singled out and wrote around her slime:  
"Frondeurs unsinuing! sling the first stone here!"

The woman is a plant, her flower early,  
Her reproduction her biography.  
My mother pined and died for her Gustavus;  
His only child I was, to wear his sword;

His sister had a son who wooed me hard ;  
I felt the Vasa jealousy of partners  
And fed my brain and let my bosom starve.  
My mind had no companionships in Sweden :  
I sent abroad for scholars. Soon contempt  
Of amorous thought withered my wedding wreath.  
Our Lutherans were lusty, women forward ;  
Magnus, my fancy, wedded Charles's sister ;  
I promised Charles my crown without my hand  
And formed the Order of the Amaranth,  
The monks and nuns of Learning ; *one* stood fast.  
My frame grew steel, my mind became all man :  
Monaldeschi trifled with an Amazon.

But I have proved the sexes have reversion —  
And from Minerva's brain Mars can be born :  
The King I chose has rounded Sweden's bounds  
And beaten Poland. Scania is a fief  
Of the Roman empire and Christina ends  
Semiramis, like Margaret of the North.

The Woman left in me was my Conversion :  
I tired of sermons but to woo my soul  
Was an amour, sweet, timorous, and sighful,  
Like the annunciation of the Virgin.  
Spain, Portugal, the Pope, sent pursuivants  
Who talked in liquid tongues, which I had learned  
Without a master, of supernal love.  
Long I coquetted with those Jesuits,  
Resisted, threw them off, returned and yielded,  
And never told the soft solicitation :  
One woman kept a secret ; it was pure.  
To learn our fate we seek the fortune teller

Who promises it all : Rome outbid Luther.  
We know not much ; on them who swear they know  
We lay our doubts : Rome has one Swede ; she,  
Rome.

Rome's civil law and Koster's printed bible,  
Fermented in rude states ; the age is loosed :  
High intellects are readjusting knowledge.  
The Northern Schools Kepler and Tycho Brahe  
Have graduated to revise the lights  
And Earth's circumferential to her Sun.  
Rome has reformed ; Christine reforms to Rome,  
To be Hypatia to the fading Gods.

The year my father fell in Lutzen fight  
Old Galilei did abjure the truth  
In Rome. No more will Rome science suppress.  
Intolerance will take its stand in France  
And from this old château, who knows, but Louis  
Will shame his grandsire Henry more than I  
Gustave Adolphus ? Priest-kings are the worst.  
I will against intolerance be Protéstant  
In Rome itself. The earth awakes from sleep  
By revolution. France may turn too swift.

Who's yonder ? Henriette of England comes ;  
Cromwell supplies the head of her and Charles.  
Von Wallenstein took counsel of the stars  
But fell like Monaldeschi, Captain-slashed.  
The forest here has a Black Huntsman in it,  
King Henry's apparition ere he died ;  
There will I ride alone, who ne'er saw ghost.  
How indolently safe to trust one's priest !

Nature ! I sighed thee that I had no babe !  
There was one, Little Sweden, that I swaddled  
In the new world ; its mart was named for me.  
The Dutch have taken it and changed the name ;  
In neither Sweden have I left a chick.

Error preserves us often, like misfortune.  
The wayward child is still the best beloved.  
I took my crown off for sweet Independence.  
Fashion I like not ; business wore me out.  
I will be humble when I live in Rome.

Meantime these French who bought my father's  
death  
Shall keep me for two years at their expense !  
I will resume my study, — true devotion ;  
My books, — the holy graves of saints ; myself, —  
Portent of learning in the female plant.  
As Mazarin collects his books for France,  
I will become Rome's vestal bibliophile,  
Cumæan sibyl for new oracles.  
The riddle of the woman who shall bruise  
The serpent's head, bear children and be ruled  
By her desire of husband, therein lies,  
As in the Sibyl's books Christ was acrostic.

The negative of man is his child-bearer.  
The serpent's head is this small female head,  
Which coils on man's and has no separate growth ;  
The quickening contact mounts not to her reason.  
Diana's priestesses had each one breast ;  
One was too many for symmetric art  
And Sappho's lyre was lovesick. Woman grew



Half on, with single breast, and Greece was dam  
To the strong brood of woman-minded thoughts,  
In the harmonious temples of her head ;  
That, dragged through the Arab caliphs' lusts,  
Glanced off from Spain and lodged in Italy,  
And on the barren rock of Peter grew  
The lillied Renaissance. Still negative  
Is woman, led by France and fashion down  
Below the stature of her column's head :  
Man grows a tree and woman grows a vine  
And chokes the tree of Knowledge. Earth's o'er-  
brooded !

All faiths that are have superstitious ends.  
Earth has no end in its continual sphere.  
Material truths one day will be a faith,  
When woman comprehends and holds the ground  
That man has won. The vast negation waits.

When I was at Nykoping, Oxenstiern, —  
A greater mind than Richelieu's, but in Sweden, —  
Gave me a dog called *Fidés*, saying "Chris.,  
Thou learn'st too much from books; learn from  
this setter !"

We had an Echo on the water there ;  
My dog's bark barked at him and the first night  
He barked all night at Echo. The next night  
*Fidés* kept all awake. My aunt cried "Kill him !"  
" 'Tis his devotion," said my uncle John,  
"He worships at the unaccountable."

How ghostly seem we to ourselves in mirrors  
At dusk, as they reflect our coming shade !

In dusk I ferried *Fidés* tow'rd his Echo.  
 I spoke myself one name for the last time ;  
 "*Magnus*."

Art listening, priest?

(He is asleep.

The death he has seen done this hour prostrates  
 him.)

The rest I'll tell to Echo, whispering here,  
 In the long halls where Henry kissed Diana  
 In Rondelet's fireplace, where kiss quenched flame.  
 In her Initial, Henry is the cipher.  
 She subdued him when Dauphin, nineteen years  
 Her junior. But she married at thirteen ;  
 Widowed at thirty-two : it is my age !  
 She was re-born and turned a man in love.  
 Once in an age old woman has her reign.  
 (Would I had tilted with Montgomery !)  
 The renaissance at Fontainebleau was Love.

Mary of Scots was here a bride and Philip  
 Of Spain did wed his murdered son's affianced ;  
 Francis was satyr to his market girls ;  
 Navarre in love-war met his Ravailiac.  
 Kings get no more than peasants from the sex !

The furious love scenes painted by Italians  
 Are just effaced by Anne of Austria,  
 Lest Mazarin admire them more than her.  
 In this château, where art was stripped to Isis  
 A hundred years ago, they stand me off,  
 Who am an honest monk, a maiden queen.

When brother Guises in some such château  
 Were foully stabbed, the Valois line expired !

My traitor wore a corselet like a woman,  
His sentence paralyzed his lizard tongue.  
I'll whisper to this sleeping priest my secret,—  
God's drowsy ear, the old maid's deaf confessor.

'Twas play for Poland, which the Jesuits  
Have made another Spain, and smothered knowl-  
edge,  
Has been the silent secret of my soul !

Sweden is flanked by Denmark, our oppressor ;  
Poland and Russia are conjoined with it.  
Jagellon's line concluded with a woman  
Who wed my father's uncle, John of Vasa ;  
Sweden and Poland were their son's demesnes, —  
Sigismund. *He* would force the Poles' religion  
Upon our Lutherans, who did depose him.  
The Dissidents he persecutes in Poland,  
Its Huguenots, who do solicit me  
To be their Henry of Navarre and join  
Against the Russians our united powers,  
Else Russia will devour both Swedes and Poles.  
I must be Catholic if Queen in Poland !

I set my cousin Charles upon my throne,  
He in my secrets as my ardent lover,  
To shatter Denmark and King Sigismund,  
And stepped me down, a wondrous Catholic.

Learning had taught me silliness of churches :  
Religions are the national costumes,  
More silken Southward and more woollen North.  
I could afford to humor them I vanquished,  
They were not subtle to discern my play.

Like *Fidés*, Echo from the farther side  
 Returned to this, as I to it went nearer  
 (The dog did reason it when he was hoarse).  
 Who shall chase Echoes from opposing shores?  
 What of Christine is altered by exchanging  
 The creed of Odin for the creed of Venus?  
 The toasted babes in Thirty Years of war  
 Called on the motherhood in my dry milk  
 To taste the sacrament that I had humbled,  
 As Jesus dipped with John. Not by the Cross  
 But by the Dove was writ the sign of *Conquer!*

Poland, Bohemia, Sweden, Hungary,  
 Beneath a woman's love, would wall the Tartar  
 And Bear, out of Midgarden's paradise:  
 I wished to be the tolerant queen of Poland!

Lest this might be, the Jesuits mine equerry  
 Hired, — Monaldeschi, — to snook over me.  
 I caught him with my letters, trapped him here,  
 And send his ghost to Rome to give me awe!

Rome will sit squat. Her morals are Conversion.  
 Public Opinion, ever absolute,  
 In midnight tyranny as in the day,  
 Now has Christine beneath its microscope:  
 Poland, I fear, is frozen from my love!

The woman's reign in Eden was not long;  
 The curse of children was her balance wheel.  
 Sweden is lost to me; Poland affrighted;  
 Rome is uneasy with its roving convert:  
 I have no other home. Father, awake!  
 Absolve Rome's daughter from her passing sin!

## WASHINGTON'S MONUMENT

## LONG UNFINISHED

SUNK in the sands by its own weight, the Sphinx  
Intelligible lies ; its nobler part, —  
That sweet, great face — still touching every  
heart,  
That 'midst the lonely ruins walks, and thinks  
On perished states, made perfect by such art.  
But thou ! *our* Sphynx, — lone column, strong and  
white,  
When this our empire totters to decay,  
The senile riddle of thy broken height  
And feeble unfulfillment, who shall say ?  
“A race unstable and degenerate,” they  
Who pass may cry, “here sought some shrine to  
lift —  
Not such as carved complete yon wondrous disk  
In Egypt, but some brood ingrate with thrift,  
And souls unfinished like this obelisk !”  
1871.

## CLOY

As the Earth is surrounded  
By naked air,  
Life's sphere is bounded  
By an azure care ;  
Only moments of time  
Is the rainbow bended,  
And wherever we climb,  
The world is ended.

There's a hopelessness  
In careers succeeding,  
More than the distress  
Of the dying and bleeding ;  
The nature which scaleth  
Cathedral towers,  
Hears nearer where wailleth  
The tolling hours.

## ROCKING CHAIR

'Tis not Diana on her bow  
I seem to see, so straight and spare, —  
A lady moving to and fro  
So calmly in a rocking chair.

Like some old clock's slow pendulum,  
Her wavy line, her features fair,  
Across my memories go and come, —  
The lady in the rocking chair.

In woman's realm, a little home, —  
Her little arc of life's career, —  
I see sweep past her silver comb ;  
The lady in the rocking chair.

It makes me weep, it makes me sleep,  
That gentle motion · tell me where  
I felt it o'er the ocean deep ? —  
Dear mother, in thy rocking chair !

## SANCTUMONIOUS

THE Editor and Writer met in Twilight's lonely  
lane,

Bohemian and Sadducee, enforced to meet again :

“ When next we walk, successful friend ! the dark-  
ness will be deep ” ;

Said the Bohemian, “ Tell me, now, what have  
you done to keep ? ”

“ My self-esteem, my spotless work, my influence  
austere !

I edited the Higher Thought, the economic seer !

Never to error did I stoop and when the State  
must fall,

Let history consult my files : I did predict it all.

“ You wrote and lived incontinent ; I had to let  
you drop ;

And still you are a rolling-stone and I the per-  
fect stop ;

The ink-drops from my Draco's pen fall like the  
gibbet's rope

And splash into that stoic blank where but Bo-  
hemians hope.”

Finished the sinless Sadducee and the Bohemian  
said,

“ The measure of a fellow's length is taken when  
he's dead.

I have had all of life's good things yet never wor-  
shipped me ;

You, born with introverted eyes, worshipped your  
cavity.

“ You superseded God at school, your country later  
on ;  
Plenty of earth you have possessed but none of  
horizon.  
My talent I have not improved ; I kept it in my  
hand :  
Mine is the faith my fathers had in my dear, native  
land !

“ One drop,” the old Bohemian said, “ within its  
channel strong,  
I mingle in the mighty tide and with it move  
along,  
I have no other creed than this, no power of my  
own :  
Flow, beauteous river ! Not in thee have ever I  
thrown a stone ! ”

From Twilight lane they parted last, the years  
were growing dark ;  
Neither upon the century left more than finger  
mark ;  
“ Silentia ” was the epitaph upon the scolding  
man,  
But all the bands of music play past the Bo-  
hemian.

#### RESPECTABILITY

PERHAPS I owe to my temerity  
Some lost advantages of little force ;  
At life's outgoing they will quit my corse,



I shall have seen what I desired to see,  
Eye-single, not with Ishmael's remorse,  
But by the beam of nature given me.  
Some question Shakespere for his way apart,  
Because invited little by the great;  
He kept his pedigree, a country heart,  
And laureated was to illustrate.  
Than imitation is no meaner fate,  
To be respectable is not to rise;  
There is a strength that does not borrow state,  
It is to serve the light within thine eyes.

## DYING LETTERS

HERE strangled in the West  
See gentle Letters lie!  
Where he had hoped the best  
Despair is in his eye.  
'Twas Mammon stabbed him first  
And piracy severe,  
The gash that bled him worst  
Was dealt him by a sneer.

"Go to!" says worldly wise,  
"What time have we to read?  
The past is full of books,—  
Enjoy the present deed!  
Down with ideal things!  
Melt down the wizard bell!  
Strike off the poet's wings!  
We still can buy and sell."

Yes, for ye all are sold  
To what your souls despise, —  
The avarice of gold  
And small anxieties ;  
To wives who spend and pine  
And scandals base discuss,  
To sons who die in wine,  
And daughters frivolous.

Read not or wanton read,  
That wanton dreams may be !  
Have authors like your need,  
Serfs of your pleasantry !  
Here strangled in the West  
See gentle Letters lie ! —  
Where he had hoped the best  
Despair is in his eye.

RICHARD, O MY KING

VERSAILLES, OCTOBER 3, 1789

O RICHARD, O my king !  
Beneath thy prison bars  
I touch the lute's light string,  
Soft as the light of stars ;  
They steal into thy sight,  
Unto thy soul I sing :  
Awake ! O captive knight !  
O Richard, O my king !

(*Chorus, repeat.*)

O Richard, O my king !

O Richard, O my king!  
Not of thine arms I sigh;  
The love to thee I bring  
Is of thy Poesy.  
Thou king of troubadors!  
List to the night bird's wing,  
And twang thy prison bars,  
O Richard, O my king!

O Richard, O my king!  
The air it is thine own,  
Made in thy life's young spring  
Before thou had'st a throne;  
Then music filled thy heart  
Far more than anything, —  
Thy sceptre was my Art,  
O Richard, O my king!

O Richard, O my king!  
Thy voice is singing now;  
I hear its deep notes ring  
Like stormwind on the bough.  
Song pierced thy stone redoubt,  
'Tis thy recovering:  
Thy song has found thee out,  
O Richard, O my king!

(*Chorus, repeat.*)

O Richard, O my king!

## MIRROR SONG

FROM *DECATUR*, AN OPERA

THE lily's mirror is the pond,  
The rose's mirror is the dew,  
The empress's the diamond,  
And in my mirror I see *you*.  
O am I fit for you to cull?  
In your eyes am I beautiful?  
Your glorious strength shall I consume,  
And with my weakness make perfume? —  
Our features blend as man and wife  
And flower in immortal life?

The star has mirrors in the air,  
The rainbow, mirrors, in the rain,  
But thou art mirrored everywhere,  
In all my bliss, in all my pain!  
O let me gaze upon the charms,  
Worthy to enter in thy arms!  
My mind is but a giddy scroll,  
My beauty is my only soul, —  
Be thine career! the glorious strife!  
Take me in thy immortal life!

Thy fame has mirrors in the crowd,  
Thy courage shines in thy cuirass,  
The guns reflect thy victories loud:  
*My* echo is my Looking Glass.  
O, till thou drink me in thy kiss,  
I no assurance have but this, —  
That I am fit to blend with thee,

My face in immortality  
With thine, whose eyes reflect thy wife,  
In crystal of immortal life !

AMERICAN SLAVES IN TRIPOLI

1805

FAREWELL, our native land !  
Farewell, O freshening sea !  
We choose the suffocating sand  
To shame and liberty.  
Earth shall not rue that we existed, —  
This is our one reply :  
We swore to die when we enlisted,  
Go, show us where to die !

Perhaps our cheerful parts,  
Our hearty work, our songs,  
May soften our taskmasters' hearts  
And mitigate our wrongs.  
On honest bread we have subsisted,  
We would not terrify,  
We swore to die when we enlisted,  
Go, show us where to die !

Where'er we go our name,  
Our land's example wins,  
Degraded realms we shall reclaim  
And soften Jacobins !  
Unfurl the flag that we assisted !  
Dear country, hear our sigh ! —  
We swore to die when we enlisted,  
Go show us where to die !

## SHAKESPERE'S FRIENDS

FROM TALBOT'S HAWKS. A ROMANCE

BENEATH the roots of these old trees  
That shade the river bends,  
There lie the buried images  
That once were Shakespere's friends ;  
As still as in his theatre,  
Beside their thrilling dames,  
They never stir, beneath the fir,  
That lulls the river James.

The vine, whose dye of royal red,  
The locust tree ascends,  
Takes splendor from the perishèd  
That once were Shakespere's friends ;  
His mind luxuriant seems to bloom,  
His ardent nature flames,  
And from their charnel sheds perfume  
Along the river James.

Around their rest no hates endure,  
His noble mind forbends —  
The holy rites of Literature  
Were said o'er Shakespere's friends ;  
They talked the lofty style he wrote  
And coursed heroic fames,  
And through the Tempest sailed their boat  
Unto the river James.

These saw the bard a man, like them,  
Though so his scope transcends

That we would think his garment's hem  
Was kissed by Shakespere's friends ;  
But poor disciple fishermen,  
That fancy lifts to fames,  
Were no more apostolic, then,  
Than those who fished the James.

If men would of his Scripture learn  
Life's universal ends, —  
Bend o'er this old colonial urn,  
That once held Shakespere's friends !  
There is for each his own career,  
But dust for all our aims, —  
Imagination bounds our sphere ;  
Life is the city, James.

Yet far, afar, dissolving forms  
Will find infinite blends,  
Like to the moisture in the storms,  
The dew of Shakespere's friends ;  
The globe, evaporate, goes on,  
Itself the mote reclaims,  
And nought is lost when all is gone :  
Bloom on ! O city James !

### SONGS OF YOUTH

THE songs I wrote when I was young,  
I did not think were good ;  
I sat me down to write some songs,  
When life was understood.  
But, everywhere, the bright and fair,

To my first numbers sprung, —  
They did not want my songs of care,  
But songs I made when young.

The love I made when I was young,  
Was not love *débonnaire* ;  
I thought love would refine its tongue  
When I could love prepare ;  
But, everywhere, the bright and fair,  
I, stranger, seemed among ;  
They did not want my sober air,  
But love I made, when young.

The travels made when I was young,  
Were not in wisdom's way.  
Again I travelled in those lands,  
In life's meridian day ;  
But, everywhere, the bright and fair,  
My lonely heartstrings wrung ;  
My settled thoughts they did not share,  
But thoughts I had, when young.

Song, Love, and Travel ! ye are young,  
And I am almost old.  
The golden bell vibrates when rung,  
The cracked old bell is tolled.  
Ye young and fair ! my time beware !  
In morn's bright Arc be swung !  
Wait not for evening time to pair,  
Life's life is but life young.



## NEW ENGLAND

(TO JOHN GODFREY MOORE)

NEW ENGLAND's head is cool,  
Her heart a living spring,  
Her hand a tempered tool,  
Her throat was made to sing,  
Her genius comprehends,  
Her habits ever steady,  
Her means embrace her ends,  
Her spunk is right and ready.

She did conceive our land  
A Continental nation,  
She made the mighty stand,  
She forced the Declaration,  
She gave us clocks to heed,  
She set the West in motion,  
She made our fathers read,  
Her food fields were the ocean.

Wherever went her sons  
The mill wheels churned the waters,  
The spin wheel swifter runs  
For her free-jointed daughters,  
Her poverty can lend,  
She never is dependers,  
A teacher or a friend  
New England is the lender.

Who blames her that she strove  
To be the saint-elected?

As from the brain of Jove  
Minerva was projected?  
Idealist alone,  
She drew her out of Edom;  
A Book is still her throne,  
Her influence is Freedom.

Fatter are others' fields;  
Her dower is some duty.  
Her rocky verdure yields  
The most transcendent beauty.  
Organic as some realm  
And scented like a blossom,  
Her spread is like her elm,  
The Mayflower's in her bosom.

## UNSERVED

OUR nation leads the age  
But every man is drafted,  
The mighty heritage  
Into our sap is grafted;  
We somewhat know our wives  
And know our children's faces  
And when old age arrives  
We have no resting spaces.

'Tis money makes our friends,  
Its want our disconsoling,  
Life's sweet endeavor ends  
When ends our burden-rolling;  
The evening hour is dull,

'Tis sleep or dissipation,  
For home life beautiful  
We made no preparation.

The poor they know us not ;  
Our servants haste to leave us ;  
Our wealth has them forgot,  
Their free-born thoughts perceive us ;  
Our distance they respect,  
We are our money's sequels,  
Deserting us, select,  
They seek their hearty equals.

I think upon a time  
The kitchen was our play-house,  
The chimney's whitewashed grime  
'Twixt air and home, half-way house,  
Our orphan bounden maid  
The sweetheart that we read to,  
And ere compelled to bed,  
Her loving lap we fled to.

Her dishes washed, she walked  
Into the high folks' sitting ;  
She and the old cook talked  
With mother round the knitting ;  
Our neighbors did not start  
Nor look our " help's " demission, —  
It was as if some heart  
Played shuttle through condition.

Little we knew that maid  
Had source so sentimental :

Her mother was betrayed,  
Her father was a gentle.  
Wealth does no more allow  
Those tender patronages,  
And foreign convicts now  
Eat all our poor folks' wages.

In outskirt huts I note  
The laborer's straight-limbed daughters,  
Wild music in their throat,  
And leap of mountain waters ;  
They never seek his door, —  
The poor, rich man they border, —  
Both poor and rich are poor,  
Without a Servant order.

Helpless our lady hears  
Her kitchen tales' distresses,  
With diamonds in her ears  
And only silken dresses,  
Untaught with heart to speak,  
In nature's sister spirit,  
Unto her sex's meek,  
Who shall her earth inherit.

What patriotic guild,  
Exploiting past condition,  
Can match the woman-willed  
In wife's or daughter's mission? —  
Morgiana to set free,  
'Neath Ali Baba's eaves,  
Who served the family,  
And boiled the Forty Thieves?

## MORMON'S OLD WIFE

ABED, and failing and old and gray,  
On the thirtieth morn of her wedding day, —

First wife in time, but the ninth in number,  
Old Betsy Perkins awoke from slumber ;

And she heard the bells of Salt Lake shedding  
Their melody, over her husband's wedding !

This morn he wedded the tenth young spouse,  
In the cloisters of the Endowment House ;

One fair enough midst the daughters of men,  
To make an old man gallant again ;

For he in the church was a reigning star,  
One of the Twelve and a Counsellor,

And many missions had made him wise,  
And deepened the lights in his handsome eyes,

While she, bedridden, with babes and cares,  
Lost the rose from her cheeks and the brown from  
her hairs ;

Lost hope and husband, and all but belief  
In the church of the Saints and the might of its  
chief.

And the wedding bells were strong and sharp  
As arrows shot from the chords of a harp.

Ah! tenderer bells had pealed for her  
That wedding morn in Exeter,

When in the Parish Church she stood,  
Upon the threshold of womanhood,

And trustfully, heartily, gave her all  
To the strong young blacksmith, frank and tall;—

His silver watch his thrift confessed;  
A nosegay smartly bloomed on his breast;

His Cornish accent, deep and queer,  
Like Psalmist's melody thrilled on her ear;

Of reverent mind and serious fashion,  
His love had something more than passion;—

And she felt on his broad breast, anchored fast,  
The peace that understanding passed.

Now over her grey, adobè home,  
The Wahsatch mountains, dome on dome,

Alone kept sentry; their snowy spears  
Had changed no feature in twenty years—

The rills that babbled about her lot  
Talked cold in the orchards of apricot;

And her sight grew dim in the lonely days,  
Like the vale of Deseret lost in the haze.

Alone, neglected, her daughters the prize  
Of solemn Bishops and "Seventies";

Her sons engrossed in their wives and farms  
And her husband sealed in a maiden's arms,

She cried, "Oh! blessed Master above!  
This morn of my wedding I perish for love!

"I am chill and blind. Let me lean once more  
On the breast that received me so gladly of yore!

"If ever my heart cried its pain and hunger,  
To see him look down in the eyes of one younger,

"Or uttered my crushed love's agony  
To hear, oft repeated, the vow made to me,

"When happy in girlhood my bridegroom stood by  
me,  
This prayer of my old age, my Saviour! deny me!

"Not all, but a moment of love I entreat,  
To hear on my threshold the sound of his feet,

"To hide on his bosom, and die on his kiss —  
Oh, Jesus! thou comforter, grant me but this!"

The light on the mountains grew dark as she spake,  
And the rills of the cañons that ran to the lake;

As cold as the Jordan in winter, the room,  
And like snow on the fire died her hope in the  
gloom.

But a hand like a lover's she felt in her palm  
And a voice that was healing, spoke out of the  
calm:

“Oh, weary and laden one, come unto Me!  
Your prayer it is answered; your love you shall  
see.”

By the bedside, all brightness, One beautiful, stood,  
But the prints on His feet and His side were like  
blood.

But like the ideal she had wept to embrace,  
The groom of her girlhood He seemed by His face.

And she cried: “O, my lost one, for absence aton-  
ing,  
You have suffered like me, you have bled without  
moaning!

“Oh, tarry a day, ere forever we part;  
For the bliss of your coming brings death to my  
heart!”

Then it seemed that the cot and the mountains  
sank down,  
And the stars thronging round, hid the lights of the  
town;

But her fears were assuaged on the breast of her  
choice,  
“And the comfort, unspeakable, borne on His voice:

“Oh, soul-seeking love! to requite for thy loss,  
In the sight of my mother, I wedded the cross,

And espoused in my pain, with my arms opened  
wide;  
The old and neglected, by men cast aside!”



John Perkins, Apostle, as seldom of late,  
Came up to old Betsy's and opened the gate.

He stole through the orchard, passed softly the  
door,  
And set his great basket of gifts on the floor ;

There lay on the cot, with her face to the South,  
The wife of his youth with a smile round her  
mouth ;

The smile that she wore in her freshness of charms,  
When he woke in the morn and she slept in his  
arms ;

Like the light on Twin Peaks, when the day lin-  
gers low,  
It lay 'neath her white hair sand tinted their snow :

Recognition of love everlasting it spake,  
When father and mother and husband forsake.

"Oh, Gentiles !" cried Perkins, and knelt by place,  
"Can your wives die like ours with a smile on  
their face ?

"O women ! who yield up all heaven for a kiss !  
Ye pity our old wives, who slumber like this !"

SALT LAKE, 1871.

## HARPER'S FERRY SUNSET

Rosy glow the rugged heights  
Half way up the mountain hole,  
As sunset o'er the funnel, lights  
With wine, the grand communion bowl;  
'Twixt farther peaks Potomac's sheet  
In pale wide bays extends its floss,  
These and the sky seem hands and feet  
When stretched the Saviour on the cross;  
Rock bars, the scars of civil wars,  
Like music scales on rift and ridge,  
Sing of the Sunday when the cars  
Stopped, like an organ, on the bridge:  
His gallows' beams o'ertop the town,  
The mountains, only, hanged John Brown.

Name so lowly, sponsored never,  
Parent of his mighty thought,  
Rhapsody was his endeavor,  
Like Prometheus he fought.  
Nothing since has here abided  
But the spell of Nature's spasm,  
He the scenery divided  
And his spectre fills the chasm.  
Armorers and all their din,  
Feudal times, he gathered in;  
Him suspended, when he went,  
He suspended government!  
As a whirlpool leaves a tragic  
Rift aghast where it sucked down,  
In the camera of magic  
Swims thy maelstrom face, old Brown!

## HER FIRST GLASSES

"I CANNOT see," my lady writes ;  
"Get glasses for my blinded sights !"  
The plaintive cry brings tears to me  
That those bright orbs no longer see.

A century's third has o'er us past,  
Since childhood's eyes to eyes we cast, —  
Her eyes so black, my eyes so grey, —  
They looked the love we dared not say.

Those glorious eyes beamed in my soul  
And warmed my blood beyond control,  
O'er lands, o'er seas, they softly shone,  
I fled, I plead, — they were my own.

And all our children bore her eyes ;  
Some look down on me from the skies ;  
Some watch me in this human wild,  
And some in children of our child.

Those radiant lenses, fading some,  
Tell years autumnal almost come,  
I feel remorse to hear her plea :  
"Give me my eyes to look on Thee !"

The faithful service rises up,  
It fills my eyes, it fills my cup,  
It puts my small complaints to rest ;  
I only feel I have been blest :

One gentle being lived for me,  
Looked on me long as she could see,  
And will look on me from the skies,  
With love eternal in her eyes.

## BESSIE

BLESS her heart ! I see her shake  
All the lawn weeds from her rake,  
In her home she seems to take  
Such a comfort, such a care,  
As if these old mountain fields  
Were her precious annual yields,  
And her back their warrior shields,  
Like the children she did bear.

Now the peach tree boughs she strips,  
Now her flower borders clips :  
These are the same earnest lips,  
Thirty years and three ago,  
That to me in beauty came,  
Fearing not my fiery flame,  
Sinking in my name her name —  
That dear lady on the lawn.

Diligence was all her art,  
Open as the day her heart,  
Nothing subtle, double, smart —  
Now I know it, now I weep ;  
For her hair is growing grey,  
And I feel some lonely day,  
None will rake the spring-time hay,  
Where she lowly lies asleep.

But no rust is in her hair,  
In her hands or anywhere ;  
Like some gold-piece lost by wear,  
She has wasted grain by grain.

After her will live her fruit,  
May they get her tireless foot!  
There can be no dust nor soot  
In the orbit of that brain.

## MARY WASHINGTON

READ AT HER MONUMENT'S DEDICATION, FREDERICKS-  
BURG, VA., MAY 10, 1894

THE Rappahannock ran in the reign of good Queen  
Anne,

All townless from the mountains to the sea,  
Old Jamestown was forlorn and King Williams-  
burg scarce born —

'Twas the year of Blenheim's victory,  
Whose trumpets died away in far Virginia  
On the cabin of an old tobacco farm,  
Where a planter's little wife to a little girl gave  
life

And the fire in the chimney made it warm.

It was little Mary Ball, and she had no fame at all,  
But the world was all the same as if she had;  
For she had the right to breathe and to tottle and  
to teethe,

And to love some other cunning little lad:  
Though he proved a widower, it was all the same  
to her,

For he gave her many a daughter and a son,  
And the family was large and the oldest, little  
George,

Was the hope of little Widow Washington.

That name resounded not in the time we have  
forgot,

It was nothing more than Smith or Jones or Ball;  
And George's big half brothers had the call on  
their stepmother's

Affection, like the babes of her own stall;  
They paid the larger taxes and the Ayletts and  
Fairfaxes

Received them in their families and lands,  
While the widow thought upon it, as she rode in  
her sunbonnet,

Midst her slaves who tilled her gulleys and her  
sands ;

Till they sought to take her George upon the royal  
barge,

And give him a commission and a crest,  
When her heart cried out "O, no ! something says  
he must not go ;

My first born is a father to the rest."  
She could find him little schooling, but he did not  
learn much fooling,

And he dragged the mountains o'er with chain  
and rod.

The Blue Ridge was his cover and the Indian his  
lover

And his Duty was his Sovereign and God.

Still her rival in his heart was the Military art,

And the epaulettes she dreaded still were there.  
There are households still where glory is a broken-  
hearted story,

And the drum is a mockery and snare.  
From the far-off Barbadoes, from the yell of  
Frenchmen foes,

From the ghosts of Braddock's unavailing strife,  
She beheld her boy return and his bridal candles  
burn,

And a widow like herself become his wife.

By Potomac's pleasant tide he was settled with his  
bride,

Overseeing horses, hounds and cocks and wards,  
And it seemed but second nature to go to the  
legislature

And play his hand at politics and cards ;  
Three-score-and-ten had come when the widow  
heard the drum :

"My God!" she cried, "what demon is at  
large?"

'Tis the conflict with the King, 'tis two worlds a  
mustering,

And the call of Duty comes to mother's George.

"O war! To plague me so! Must my first born  
ever go?"

The answer is the bugle and the gun.

The town fills up again with the horse of Mercer's  
men,

And the name they call aloud is "Washington."  
In the long, distracting years none may count the  
widow's tears ;

She is banished o'er the mountains from her farm ;  
She is old and lives with strangers, while ride wide  
the King's red rangers,

And the only word is "Arm!" and "Arm!"  
and "Arm!"

"Come home and see your son, the immortal  
Washington!

He has beat the King and mighty Cornwallis!"  
They crowd her little door and she sees her boy  
once more,

But there is no glory in him like his kiss.  
The Marquises and Dukes, in their orders and  
perukes,

The Aids-de-camp, the Generals and all,  
Stand by to see and listen how her aged eyes will  
glisten

To hear from him the tale of Yorktown's fall.

Upon that her lips are dumb to the trumpet and  
the drum;

All their pageantry is vanity and stuff.  
So he leans upon her breast she cares nothing for  
the rest —

It is *he* and that is victory enough!  
In the life that mothers give is their thirst that  
man shall live

And the species never lose the legacy,  
To love again on earth and repeat the wondrous  
birth —

That is glory — that is immortality.

Unto Fredericksburg at last, when her four-score  
years are past,

Now gray himself, he rides all night to say:



“Madame — mother — ere I went, to become the  
President,

I have come to kiss you till another day.”

“No, George ; the sight of thee, which I can hardly  
see,

Is all, for all — good-by ! I can be brave.

Fulfill your great career as I have fulfilled my  
sphere !

My station can be nothing but the grave.”

The mother's love sank down, and its sunset on  
his crown

Shone like the dying beams of perfect day.

He has none like her to mix in the draught of  
politics

The balm that softens injury away.

But he was his mother's son till his weary race  
was done ;

Her gravity, her peace, her golden mean,

Shed on the State the good of her sterling woman-  
hood,

And like her own was George's closing scene.

## WAR CORRESPONDENTS' MEMORIAL

(AT GAPLAND, MD., 1896)

ARCH ærial, view ethereal,

Sky and stars and moonlit cloud,

Harvest fields of golden cereal,

Rainbow on the mountains bowed ;

Mountain ridges stepped like bridges,

O'er the rich campagna vale ;  
Storm which marches with lightning torches  
Firing volleys of bullet hail ;  
Windstorm boreal, rainstorm oriel,  
Snow pictorial on knob and town —  
All are revealed through our Memorial,  
Grim as a cyclop staring down.

Born so rigid, stony and frigid,  
Moor and Roman it must be,  
Long erected, a gate dissected  
From some castle's feudality ;  
Or set in the passes, where saying masses,  
Pilgrims, crusaders, kneeling them,  
Gazed and trembled, with undissembled  
Joy, in the sight of Jerusalem.  
Vale of Catoctin, like jewels locked in  
An azure casket, flash thy lights !  
Like the Escorial, our Memorial  
Guards them all from the mountain heights.

Yawning fortalice, thine the portal is  
Freedom opened with her pen,  
When the valley so musically  
Pealed with bugles of armèd men ;  
Walls of mountain burst with a fountain,  
Smitten from rock by our Moses,  
Frowning height arched with the light,  
Bloomed the Bastile into roses.  
Prison and light, ruin and right,  
Show in the gap, grim and lean ;  
Homely, manorial, our Memorial  
Witnesses what it has seen.



WAR CORRESPONDENTS' MEMORIAL ARCH, FROM THE EAST



Windows stand triple, each of them typal,  
Each an evangel's page white ;  
One is Depiction, one is Description,  
One is Photography's light.  
These in acclivity, arch on activity,  
Horse-shod the Centaur uprears ;  
Unicorn-towered, forest embowered,  
Sun dial, sentry of years ;  
Letters amidst the arms, history o'er the farms,  
Socketing moon and the stars,  
High and pictorial, our Memorial  
Tells of the tellers of wars !

## NEWS AND LOVE

1862.

THE fight just done, I snatched my notes,  
While Jack, my gelding, ate his oats,  
And ran my chance without a guard,  
And for Pamunkey I rode hard ;  
What made me want to leave the camps,  
And beat the mail with what I penned ?  
It was not glory and not "stamps" ;  
It was my girl at the other end.

I wound the oaks and pines among  
And felt so buoyant and so young,  
You would not think I had a list  
Of dead and wounded in my fist ;  
What said those sweet birds in the brush ?  
Why made that squirrel seem my friend ?

What made my nag so gaily push?  
It was my girl at the other end.

Last night our flanks the rebels turned;  
I see the sutlers' wagons burned,  
The sunken sloops at Putneys see —  
It was JEB. Stuart's cavalry!  
What makes me out alone so far?  
(I may to Libby prison wend!)  
You bet your life it is not war!  
It is my girl at the other end.

And now I reach the morning boat,  
The large lump passes from my throat,  
The crooked river glides so flat,  
While I am writing on my hat;  
And when I sign my name below  
I hope to kiss it one will tend?  
Is it the Public? Buncombe! No;  
It is that girl at the other end.

I change my boat; I vault ashore  
The second morn at Baltimore,  
And make such steps, 'twould shame a stork,  
To catch the first train for New York;  
Why do I toil and amplify,  
And style and matter so much mend?  
'Tis for the pride in her black eye —  
The one dear girl at the other end!

The "Office" makes for me a stir,  
Up to the managing editor;  
They say it was a real "beat,"

And I must rest and clothe and eat;  
Though grateful all these praises be,  
    Why do I want one gentle friend  
To put the crown of love on me? —  
    That one dear girl, at the other end !

## SNOWFALL AT NIGHT

GAPLAND OR CRAMPTON'S GAP

THE fire of forest wood  
    My mountain woodlands grew,  
Warms my thin winter's blood  
    And boils the tempting brew.  
I hear the farmer's sleigh  
    Come to my hermit's den ;  
The sleighbell's roundelay  
    Makes my heart young again.

They let the snowdrift in,  
    My study's light streams out ;  
Spirits in raiment thin  
    Are whiskering about ;  
The old wives' cheeks are roses,  
    The young wife's eyes are spells,  
The farmer's heart jocose is  
    And every voice has bells.

Like Santa Claus' party  
    They muffle up and go,  
Their bells, their good night hearty  
    Melt in the falling snow ;

And as I read my history  
Of Northern hosts at Rome,  
White camps in silent mystery,  
Are pitched around my home.

At morn I look in wonder :  
The argent valleys shine  
'Twixt mountains drawn asunder, —  
Potosi's silver mine.  
Blue woods, in plumage hoary,  
Descend from peaceful skies,  
A seraph host of story  
Set guard on Paradise.

One crow like Satan croaking  
Flaps o'er the saintly plan,  
This silver shield no joking  
When he would blacken man ;  
The rabbit's feet wide springing,  
His burrow would conceal,  
That tell-tale snowbirds, singing,  
Unto the dogs reveal.

The roofs are sheets of paper,  
My doves their loving crest ;  
With lace some subtle draper  
(And bridal wreaths) has dressed  
The vines, the weeds, the sedges ;  
In filigree so light.  
The quail his covey fledges,  
And truly calls " Bob White."



The mountain laurel's stringers  
Are chased in silver net, —  
The peach tree's baby fingers  
Wear mits of fairy fret,  
Like woodmen's blows with axes,  
The starving crows at morn,  
Caw on their withheld taxes,  
Due from the farmer's corn.

Still as the meteor falling  
Across the disc of night,  
These few strong sounds are calling  
Adown earth's urn of white ;  
Like marble statuary  
The noble landscapes stand  
In one grand cemetery,  
Above a hero-land.

Of old Antietam's story,  
The sculptor of the snow  
Carves out the allegory,  
Like Michael Angelo :  
These peaks of alabaster  
Entomb the scene of peace,  
Where Pollux fought with Castor,  
And Freedom came to Greece.

## DELAWARE POEMS

## GEORGETOWN

## DELAWARE

BETWEEN the Indian River, that of the ocean tastes,  
And springs that seek the Nanticoke through sandy  
forest wastes,  
And mill-ponds that in mighty swamps the buried  
timber soak,  
And deluge all the cypress lands to gain the Pocomoke,  
The court-house village cleaves a space and little  
has to spare —  
So many miles, by statute, from each and everywhere.

The houses are of shingle, and gardens hem them  
round,  
Lean grow the elms and maples about the court-  
house ground,  
And in the public corner, like some old town-  
pump's ghost,  
The chicken thief of moonlight observes the whip-  
ping-post, —  
He who has clasped it fondly knew not, I fear me,  
then,  
It was a peaceful heirloom from gracious William  
Penn.

No house is so forsaken the chickens are not there,  
Tax dogs, tax hogs, but mulct ye not the hens of  
Delaware!

They won the mains at Valley Forge, and should  
be quartered now  
Upon the ancient arms of State beside the brindled  
cow.

Let mountain people eagles love and on their  
standards plant 'em,  
The bird of Sussex fights or fries — it is the azure  
bantam.

Around the stores to empty carts the yokes of oxen  
stand,  
Or drag the knees and keels of ships from saw-  
mills close at hand;  
The solemn bank is locked at noon to let the  
Cresus dine,  
And grave old county clerks come forth to tipple  
apple wine.  
Not unobserved their noses bloom, for at the win-  
dow blinds,  
Old ladies sit the whole day long of criticising  
minds.

With sheriffs' sales and country studs the tavern  
walls are filled,  
And, save in the election heats, all politics is  
stilled;  
Then nature to disorder runs, society to fear,  
Lest Jones or Smith might get a place worth ninety  
pounds a year.

So old they grow by quiet lives, the graveyard fills  
but slow,  
And only age and infancy upon the tombstones  
show.

Old lawyers to their students speak when evening  
comes apace,  
Of many a mighty advocate in many a storied  
case —  
How Robert Frame took but a dram to make him-  
self austere,  
And John M. Clayton got a fee would keep a man  
a year.  
The church bell sounds at twilight, and shadows  
cross the square,  
Young couples full of wedlock and widows full of  
prayer.

The peach trees grapple with the pines and drive  
the forest back,  
And move to town the teams of fruit o'er many a  
woodland track;  
Far cities stretch their hands to take the crimson  
harvest in,  
And bribe the negro to release his haul of terrapin.  
The perch in all the inlets run, the crabs unslip  
their shells,  
And deep in sweet potato vines the heifers clink  
their bells.

Then, when the fodder of the corn is bundled in  
the stack,

And through the turning autumn leaves the mill-  
ponds glisten black,  
The hunting dogs grow restive and round their  
masters pant —  
They sniff the odor of the quail, the flavor of the  
brant.  
And bid adieu by half the town, some one old lady  
starts  
By railroad to the city to see the styles and arts.

Now, chuckling low of winter nights beside his  
office fire,  
The old Recorder reads the wills of many a family  
sire,  
Who made his mark and left a sow to several  
various heirs,  
And had the barrow slaughtered to pay for funeral  
prayers.  
“Ho! ho!” he quoth, “how some proud heads  
would never bow to me,  
If ever they should know I poked about their fam-  
ily tree!”

And level as the sandy land is human life diffused;  
To preacher turns the stricken lad a maiden has  
refused;  
A little lawsuit with its cares the rival homesteads  
haunts,  
And hastens to untimely graves the aged litigants;  
So are the years repeated, as tell an ancient few,  
Since Lewes lost the court-house, soon after Ninety-  
Two.

So life moves on from year to year, unstirred by  
 fears or schisms,  
 And old men read their Bibles and nurse their  
 rheumatisms ;  
 The moss grows on some older roof, familiar signs  
 grow dim,  
 Or from a venerable tree falls some decrepit limb.  
 So still it is, I almost hear the cry I raised, that  
 morn,  
 When here, past thirty years ago, my mother's son  
 was born.

1876.

## SWEDE AND INDIAN CANTICO

1638

LITTLE Minqua girl on the Christine kill !  
 Go get your sisters five  
 And stand them here twixt the kill and the hill,  
 Till the boatswain pipes alive !  
 Then, whistle, my Jack ! and fiddle, Mynheer !  
 Till the Minqua girl so neat,  
 Can not stand still for the little brown ear  
 That tells such tunes to her feet !  
 Then whistle, my Jack ! and fiddle Mynheer !  
 And the brandy wine kag tip more !  
 The Minqua maid is my little brown dear, —  
 The Swede man's happy ashore !

The Kalmar Nyckel's a right fine ship,  
 The Vogel Gripen's fast,  
 But the Minqua girl has a cherry lip

And a lean like the vessel's mast ;  
Then whistle, my Jack ! and fiddle, Mynheer !  
Till the Minqua girl so young,  
Shall feel no man but the Swede man near,  
And teach him the Minqua tongue !  
Then whistle, my Jack ! and fiddle, Mynheer !  
And the brandywine kag tip more !  
The Minqua maid is my little fawn deer, —  
The Swede man's happy ashore !

I love our queen, the little Christine,  
Nor Stockholm's lassies slur,  
But the Minqua girl has the red doe's lean,  
And the sleek of the beaver fur ;  
Then whistle, my Jack ! and fiddle, Mynheer !  
Till we fire the Kalmar's gun  
And the Minqua girl runs away with fear  
In the woods where is venison !  
Then whistle, my Jack ! and fiddle, Mynheer !  
And the brandywine kag tip more !  
The Minqua maid is my little game deer, —  
The Swede man's happy ashore !

## DOVER

## DELAWARE

IN a bracket mortisèd,  
Like a bust with fractured head  
Of some lady delicate,  
Stands the Delawarean State.

Counties, three, are all her own,  
Rising like a triple stone ;  
Down her profile like her hair  
Showers the golden Delaware.

In her lids, retiring shy,  
Brown Newcastle is her eye ;  
In the ocean's ewer thrust  
Rosy Lewes tips her bust.

In her throat's slim interval  
Dover is her capital,  
Like a modest brooch within  
Velvet recess of her chin.

From its agate to the bay  
Ribbons a soft creek away,  
Through the lotos lily ponds  
And the marshes' diamonds.

Humid in the groves it stands,  
Like some town in Netherlands,  
Rising steepled o'er the fen, —  
A mirage of Hindloopen.

As within the locket's lid  
Him, the lady loved, is hid,  
Delaware, her face demure,  
Shows in Dover's miniature :

Edmond Andros wigged so grand,  
Francis Lovelace granting land,  
Royal York and William Penn  
And the Calvert gentlemen.



While the Dutchman trapped for furs,  
Here were glebe and worshippers  
Whilst the separate State began,  
In the fresh years of Queen Anne.

And the sheriff set his stocks  
In St. Jones's splatterdocks ;  
When its rent it would not pay  
The Assembly drove away.

In his marshes wrote with grace,  
By his cornered fire-place,  
Dickinson, with eagle wing,  
"Farmer's Letters" for the King.

Here the bell, like falchion keen,  
Rang the soldiers to the green,  
Who, erewhile, to court had come  
At the beating of the drum.

Like a trumpet of his Lord's,  
Guarded by the gentry's swords,  
Preached the schoolhouse steps upon  
"Tory" Freeborn Garrettson.

Barratt's chapel was the lists,  
Where old Wesley's Methodists  
Bishops did themselves create,  
In a new Episcopate.

Whatecoat's grave is in the town.  
Bassett, convert of renown,  
(Landed statesman in the strife,)  
Bayard gave his child to wife.

Found by Presbyterian kirks  
Are the heroes and their works,  
With the Irish and the Scot  
And their kindred Huguenot.

Every nook its own equips, —  
Jones, McDonough fought their ships  
With the country-hearted air  
Breathed in sylvan Delaware.

Like the gamecock first to crow,  
While imperial states were slow,  
Delaware her blessing sent  
To a Federal government.

Count de Segur bringing gold,  
Peeped on Dover's sleep, and told ;  
Marshal Grouchy, gunning through,  
Shot more than at Waterloo.

Through our borders making tours,  
Here came Du Pont de Nemours,  
With his sons Lavoisier taught  
To make powder full of thought.

Straight as it were almost new,  
The cool house of Quaker Chew  
Echoes more than war's renown  
Round his hall at Germantown ;

Not his daughters, royal fine,  
Not his old Madeira wine,  
But all filial war's surcease :  
Clayton's, Bulwer's solemn peace.

Clayton to young Fisher there  
Told the lore of Delaware ;  
Local-hearted was his breast  
As the fishhawk to its nest.

Bayards four, to Senates sent,  
From the rented State house went.  
Cross the square, unspeaking, three  
Rival brothers Saulsbury !

Who shall know a magazine  
Crept to print on Dover green?  
Or that Smithers, lawyer prim,  
Here composed in Latin hymn ?

Or that jurist Ridgelys sank  
Sterling talents in a bank ?  
And, her Blue Hen's chickens canned,  
Dover gave the world her brand.

Surgery its native realms  
Founded under Dover elms  
And, its green retreats within,  
Letters gave to medicine.<sup>1</sup>

Delaware's tranquil increase  
Comes from times of Prince Maurice,  
Fragment of their souls' concern —  
Grotius and Oxenstiern.

Down her creek ports from the ways  
Glide her sloops, where cattle graze,

<sup>1</sup> Doctors James Sykes and Edward Miller, 1799.

Ever fattening, never gone,  
On Van Rembrandt's river lawn.

Jurisprudence of its courts  
Dignified by its reports ;  
By its Senators sustained  
The equality it gained.

Not the fractious rights of States  
Riots in her water gates ;  
Kirtled in her slender zone,  
Daughter of our Union.

Ancient blendings in her type  
Give her beauty rare and ripe,  
All of Europe's races born  
In the orient of her morn.

Wanton cities spoil her not ;  
Like her peach and apricot,  
She, within her little tree,  
Has the orchard's luxury.

#### LAND OF NO ACCOUNT

A TOAST to them the sage contemn,  
As only fit for pelf :  
Here's to the State of people great  
That never knew itself !  
We never knew our statesmen true,  
Our quorums and our twelves,  
Our senators and congressmen —  
They never knew themselves.

The traveled prig whose soul was big —  
That patronizing elf —  
The college sprig, saw through his wig  
The State knew not itself.  
We humble fools, a million schools  
Made of us reading elves ;  
We sat on stools, we plied our tools,  
We never knew ourselves.

We had no lords, we wore no swords,  
Not Ghiblin nor yet Guelf,  
Our parent fount of no account  
We never knew ourself ;  
More wooden we in company  
Than our good axes' helves,  
We read our fate not to be great  
And never knew ourselves.

Yet still we grew, as simples do,  
And wealth was on our shelf ;  
From sea to sea all folks were free, —  
Our neighbor was ourself.  
“See yonder lout ! ‘ He comes not out,  
He dickers and he delves ;  
Let’s smite his hip, blow up his ship ! ” —  
They never knew ourselves.

To farthest world our shots are hurled —  
Old Spain has dug her delf —  
Hapsburgers great ! Beware the state  
That never knew itself !  
Lest if we quit our humble wit —

The dry goods on our shelves —  
All hell may feel our home-made steel  
And we may know ourselves !

### THE OREGON

I AM coming, Uncle Sam !  
And a little sore I am ;  
Twelve thousand miles of palm,  
Through tropics twain, I trode,  
From my own golden gate  
Down past Magellan's Strait,  
And round the Horn with freight,  
Precious load.

Four hundred sons of mine  
From the groves of giant pine,  
The vineyards of the vine,  
The mountain and the dall,  
They come along with me  
Their Uncle Sam to see ;  
Oh, next time, let it be  
By canal !

We outsailed Captain Cook  
And Sinbad in the book ;  
Our steel frames never shook,  
For our smiths we swore upon ;  
The Stars and Stripes they blew  
Past the Incas of Peru,  
And the Patagonian knew  
Oregon.

No cable of our own  
Spoke in our uncle's tone ;  
All voiceless and alone,  
Deep laden with our guns,  
We slipped the Spaniard's snares  
In the Bay of Buenos Ayres  
By the good saint in our prayers —  
Washington.

They gave us right good will,  
The Republic of Brazil ;  
Of fuel we took fill,  
And out again we wheeled ;  
The Equator it was hot,  
But we never slacked our trot,  
To reach that hotter spot —  
Battlefield.

The Amazon's wide mouth,  
We crossed its burning drouth,  
Left Orinoco south  
And all the brood of Spain's ;  
Till the air it seemed our own,  
And the stars were purer sown,  
And we felt our native zone  
In our veins.

They may waylay us yet,  
But the world will not forget  
What workmanship we set,  
That could stand this mighty trip ;  
It will fear our Arts afar

More than our guns of war,  
And the ship shall be our star ;  
Workmanship.

1898.

### THE CIRCUIT PREACHER

HIS thin wife's cheek grows pinched and pale with  
anxiousness intense ;  
He sees the brethren's prayerful eyes o'er all the  
conference ;  
He hears the Bishop slowly call the long "Ap-  
pointment" rolls,  
Where in his vineyard God would place these  
gatherers of souls.

Apart, austere, the knot of grim Presiding Elders  
sit ;  
He wonders if some city "Charge" may not for  
him have writ ?  
Certes ! could they his sermon hear on Paul and  
Luke awreck,  
Then had his talent ne'er been hid on Annomessix  
Neck !

Poor rugged heart ! be still a pause, and you, worn  
wife be meek !  
Two years of banishment they read far down the  
Chesapeake !  
Though Brother Bates, less eloquent, by Wilming-  
ton is wooed,  
The Lord that counts the sparrows fall shall feed  
his little brood.





CIRCUIT PREACHER AND WIFE: THE AUTHOR'S PARENTS



“ Cheer up, my girl ! Here Brother Riggs our circuit knows ’twill please.

He raised three hundred dollars there, besides the marriage fees.

What ! tears from us who preached the word these thirty years or so ?

Two years on barren Chincoteague, and two in Tuckahoe ?

“ The schools are good, the brethren say, and our Church holds the wheel ;

The Presbyterians lost their house ; the Baptists lost their zeal.

The parsonage is clean and dry ; the town has friendly folk, —

Not as Rehoboth half so dull, nor proud like Pocomoke.

“ Oh ! thy just will, our Lord ! be done, though these eight seasons more,

We see our ague-crippled boys pine on the Eastern Shore,

While we, thy steward, journey out our dedicated years

Midst foresters of Nanticoke, or heathen of Tangiers !

“ Yea ! some must serve on God’s frontiers, and I shall fail, perforce,

To sow upon some better ground my most select discourse ;

At Sassafras, or Smyrna, preach my argument on ‘ Drink,’

My series on the Pentateuch, at Appoquinimink.

“ Gray am I, brethren, in the work, though tough  
to bear my part ;  
It is these drooping little ones that sometimes wring  
my heart,  
And cheat me with the vain conceit the cleverness  
is mine  
To fill the churches of the Elk, and pass the  
Brandywine.

“ These hairs were brown, when, full of hope,  
ent’ring these holy lists,  
Proud of my Order as a knight, — the shouting  
Methodists, —  
I made the pine woods ring with hymns, with  
prayer the night-winds shook,  
And preached from Assawaman Light far North as  
Bombay Hook.

“ My nag was gray, my gig was new ; fast went  
the sandy miles ;  
The eldest Trustees gave me praise, the fairest sis-  
ters smiles ;  
Still I recall how Elder Smith of Worten Heights  
averred  
My Apostolic Parallels the best he ever heard.

“ All winter long I rode the snows, rejoicing on my  
way ;  
At midnight our Revival hymns rolled o’er the sob-  
bing bay ;  
Three Sabbath sermons, every week, should tire a  
man of brass, —  
And still our fervent membership must have their  
extra Class !

“ Aggressive with the zeal of youth, in many a  
warm requite  
I terrified Immersionists, and scourged the Mil-  
lerite;  
But larger, tenderer charities such vain debates  
supplant,  
When the dear wife, saved by my zeal, loved the  
Itinerant.

“ No cooing dove of storms afeared, she shared my  
life’s distress,  
A singing Miriam, alway, in God’s poor wilderness;  
The wretched at her footstep smiled, the frivolous  
were still;  
A bright path marked her pilgrimage, from Black-  
bird to Snowhill.

“ A new face in the parsonage, at church a double  
pride! —  
Like Joseph’s Mary and her babe they filled the  
‘ Amen-side ’ —  
Crouched at my feet in the old gig, my boy, so fair  
and frank,  
Naswongo’s darkest marshes cheered, or sluices of  
Choptank.

“ My cloth drew close; too fruitful love my fruit-  
less life outran;  
The townfolk marvelled, when we moved, at such  
a caravan!  
I wonder not my lads grew wild, when, bright  
without the door  
Spread the ripe, luring, wanton world, — and we,  
within, so poor!

“For, down the silent cypress aisles came shapes  
even me to scout,  
Mocking the lean flanks of my mare, my boy’s  
patched roundabout,  
And saying: ‘Have these starveling stocks, thy  
congregation, souls,  
That on their dull heads Heaven and thou pour  
forth such living coals?’

“Then prayer brought hopes, half secular, like  
seers by Endor’s witch:  
Beyond our barren Maryland God’s folks were wise  
and rich;  
Where climbing spires and easy pews showed how  
the preacher thrived,  
And all old brethren paid their rents, and many  
young ones wived!

“I saw the ships Henlopen pass with chaplains fat  
and sleek;  
From Bishopshead with fancy’s sails I crossed the  
Chesapeake;  
In velvet pulpits of the North said my best ser-  
mons o’er,—  
And that on Paul to Patmos driven, drew tears in  
Baltimore.

“Well! well! my brethren, it is true we should  
not preach for pelf,—  
(I would my sermon on Saint Paul the Bishop  
heard himself!)

But this crushed wife,—these boys,—these hairs!  
they cut me to the core;  
Is it not hard, year after year, to ride the Eastern  
Shore?

“Next year? Yes! yes! I thank you much! Then,  
my reward may fall.

(That is a downright fine discourse on Patmos and  
St. Paul!)

So, Brother Riggs, once more my voice shall ring  
in the old lists.

Cheer up, sick heart! who would not die among  
these Methodists?”

1866.

## LITTLE GRISETTE

LITTLE Grisette, you haunt me yet;  
My passion for you was long ago,  
Before my head was heavy with snow,  
Or mine eye had lost its lustre of jet.  
In the dim old *Quartier Latin* we met;  
We plighted faith one night in June,  
And all our life was honeymoon;  
We did not ask if it were sin,  
We did not go to kirk to know,  
We only loved and let the world  
Hum on its pelfish way below:  
Marked from our castle in the air,  
How pigmy its triumphal cars —  
Eight stages from the entry stair,  
But near the stars!

Little Grisette, rich or in debt,  
We were too fond to chide or sigh, —  
Never so poor that I could not buy  
A sweet, sweet kiss, from my little Grisette.  
If I could nothing gain or get,  
By hook, or crook, or song, or story,  
Along the starving road to glory,  
I marvelled how your nimble thimble,  
As to a tune, danced fast and fleeting,  
And stopped my pen to catch the music,  
But only heard my heart a-beating;  
The quaint old roofs and gables airy  
Flung down the light, for you to wear it,  
And made my love a queen in faery,  
To haunt my garret.

Little Grisette, the meals you set  
Were sweeter to me than banquet feast;  
Your face was a blessing fit for a priest;  
At your smile the candle went out in a pet.  
The wonderful chops, I shall never forget!  
If the wine was a trifle too sharp or rank,  
We kissed each time before we drank.  
The old gilt clock, e'er wrong, was swinging;  
The waxèd floor your feet reflected;  
And dear Béranger's *chansons* singing,  
You tricked at *picquet* till detected.  
You fill my pipe; — is it your eyes  
Whereat I light your cigarette? —  
On all but me the darkness lies,  
And my Grisette!



Little Grisette, the soft sunset  
Lingered a long while, that we might stay,  
To mark the Seine from the breezy quay  
Around the bridges foam and fret;  
How came it that your eyes were wet,  
When I ambitiously would be,  
A man renowned across the sea?  
I told you I should come again, —  
It was but half way round the globe, —  
To bring you diamonds for your faith,  
And for your gray a silken robe:  
You were more wise than lovers are;  
I meant, Sweetheart, to tell you true,  
I said a tearful "*Au revoir*;"  
You said: "*Adieu*!"

Little Grisette, we both regret;  
For I am wedded more than wived;  
Those careless days, in thought revived,  
But teach me I cannot forget.  
Perhaps old age must pay the debt  
Folly contracted long ago, —  
I only know, I only know,  
That phantoms haunt me everywhere  
By busy day, in peopled gloam, —  
They rise between me and my prayer,  
They chafe the holiness of home!  
My wife is proud, my boy is cold,  
I dare not speak of what I fret:  
'Tis my heart's rest with thee, I fold,  
Little Grisette!

FLORENCE, 1863.

## THE PIGEON GIRL

ON the sloping market-place,  
In the city of Compiègne,  
Every Saturday her face,  
Like a Sunday, comes again ;  
Daylight finds her in her seat,  
With her panier at her feet,  
Where her pigeons lie in pairs ;  
Like their plumage gray her gown,  
To her sabots drooping down ;  
And a kerchief, brightly brown,  
Binds her smooth, dark hairs.

All the buyers knew her well,  
And, perforce, her face must see,  
As a holy Raphael  
Lures us in a gallery ;  
Round about the rustics gape,  
Drinking in her comely shape,  
And the housewives gently speak,  
When into her eyes they look,  
As within some holy book,  
And the gables high and crook,  
Fling their sunshine on her cheek.

In her hands two milk-white doves,  
Happy in her lap to lie,  
Softly murmur of their loves,  
Envied by the passers-by ;  
One by one their flight they take,  
Bought and cherished for her sake,

Leaving so reluctantly ;  
Till the shadows close approach,  
Fades the pageant, foot and coach,  
And the giants in the cloche  
Ring the noon for Picardie.

Round the city see her glide,  
With a slender sunbeam's pace !  
Mirrored in the Oise's tide,  
The gold-fish hover on her face ;  
All the soldiers touch their caps ;  
In the cafés quit their naps  
Garçon, guest, to wish her back ;  
And the fat old beadles smile  
As she kneels along the aisle,  
Like Pucelle in other while,  
In the dim church of Saint Jacques.

Now she climbs her dappled ass, —  
He well-pleased such friend to know, —  
And right merrily they pass  
The armorial château ;  
Down the long, straight paths they tread  
Till the forest, overhead,  
Whispers low its leafy love ;  
In the archway's green caress  
Rides the wondrous dryadess —  
Thrills the grass beneath her press,  
And the blue-eyed sky above.

I have met her, o'er and o'er,  
As I strolled alone apart,  
By a lonely carrefour

In the forest's tangled heart,  
Safe as any stag that bore  
Imprint of the Emperor ;

In the copse that round her grew  
Tiptoe the straight saplings stood,  
Peeped the wild boar's satyr brood,  
Like an arrow clove the wood  
The glad note of the cuckoo.

How I wished myself her friend !  
(So she wished that I were more)  
Jogging toward her journey's end  
At Saint Jean au Bois before,  
Where her father's acres fall  
Just without the abbey wall ;  
By the cool well loiteringly  
The shaggy Norman horses stray,  
In the thatch the pigeons play,  
And the forest round alway  
Folds the hamlet, like a sea.

Far forgotten all the feud  
In my New World's childhood haunts,  
If my childhood she renewed  
In this pleasant nook of France ;  
Might she make the bleuze I wear,  
Welcome, then, her homely fare  
And her sensuous religion !  
To the market we should ride,  
In the Mass kneel side by side,  
Might I warm, each eventide,  
In my nest, my pretty pigeon !

1864.

## THE FIRST HUNGER

THE apples are water, Dearest,  
The dates are only sweet,  
There is no flesh in the juice of the grape,  
Nor life in the berry we eat!  
In the blood of the kid we have slain  
In our new and terrible greed,  
Lie the gristle and marrow we need, —  
In the pitiful yield of the grain:  
The barley that beards the wild rain,  
The corn that the crow contests,  
The milk in the white wheat's breasts, —  
Behold my red hands as I speak,  
And the curse of the sweat on my cheek!

The garden was all before us  
Where reaches to-day a waste,  
Its plentiful clusters o'er us,  
Eternity in their taste;  
I could lie in your tresses, and reach  
In the roses, the flush of the South;  
Power fell, with the figs, in my mouth,  
And youth in the bite of the peach;  
I am weary, but still they beseech, —  
These sinews, that hunger and thirst  
In their famine the fiercest and first;  
And thine eyes, where love's wishes I read,  
Look the eloquence only of — bread.

No more shall the noons be luscious,  
The nights be tender strolls,

Sweet sleep delightful hushes  
In the fond talk of our souls ;  
Yoked this stature, thou praised, to the clod,  
Farewell to the leisure so dear !  
No more by the streams shall we hear  
The intimate thoughts of our God,  
But harrow our hearts with the sod, —  
Dismissed our high quests to the winds,  
And the infinite wish of our minds,  
And the beautiful dreams that we prize,  
Like the birds that forsake Paradise.

I must seek so late thy kisses,  
So soon thy side discard,  
And my tenderest caresses  
Bestow with hands so hard.  
It is not for my lot that I plead,  
Too proud at my burden to groan,  
Nor yet, O my wife ! for thine own,  
But the races of men which succeed :  
The cannibal children of greed,  
Who fight at the bosom they crave,  
And walk from the cradle to slave,  
Till populous hunger shall shed  
The blood of its brethren for bread.

The world from the sun slips farther,  
As we far from God's face ;  
There is war declared eternal  
'Twixt nature and our race.  
But it is not the end that we dread ;  
Fighting up to God's feet as we toil,

We shall trample this curse from the soil,  
And conquer the bondage of bread,  
Making Nature our slave in our stead,  
Till the frost shall say truce, and the rain  
Draw near, at the beck of the grain,  
And our sons, with the sheaves at their knee,  
Reach again of the fruit of the tree.

1865.

## DE WITT CLINTON

In thy Dutch veins thy Irish current ran,  
A tempest in the phlegm of a canal;  
Hibernian spirits made thee partisan,  
De Witt milk tranquilized thee cosmical!  
Wasted thy youth in faction's offices  
Thy lofty mind thy scullions drove afar,  
And, looking downward from thy banished star,  
Thou saw'st an isthmian labor like to Suez  
When Amrou slashed it with his scimeter:  
Niagara's dam to Amsterdam to draw,  
The Indian oceans through the lunar Nile  
And to another Persia give access!  
Letters and Physics are the stones of Law:  
Thy inspiration makes an empire smile.

## POE

KEPLER of verse! who beauty's starry laws  
Didst rescue and her orbits calculate!

Thou hadst no prince, no Tycho, in thy cause,  
No fellow-centre for thy solar mate;  
A dark polemic age hollow applause  
Gave to the weird ellipsis of thy fate.  
But thou art in the heavens like a pause,  
Like Al Aaraf's swift and unearthly date,  
A diadem'd outlaw like Tamerlane.  
Thy heart strings were a lute like Israfel's,  
The raven led thy fame to Ulalume;  
Thou art the Psyche unto Sappho's pain.  
So sibylline the leaflets from thy plume  
They sigh like Orpheus melting Pluto's spells.

## BYRON

FIRST Englishman to hail my country's scions —  
Henry, Boon, Washington, — in courtly rhyme!  
"Still one great clime in full and free defiance  
Yet rears her crest unconquered and sublime,"  
And hears thy trumpet of *la belle alliance*:  
Tyrtaeus, to whose overture we chime!  
Old friends are dearest: as I read agog,  
In youth the rich invective of thy verse,  
I stood beside the trophy of thy dog  
At Newstead, as by tender Æsop's hearse,  
And felt that man and nature were thy debtors,  
That thou wert noble by thy discontent,  
That thou hadst widened heart and thought and  
letters  
And breathed afar the glorious Occident.



## JOHN JAY

AMONG the portraits of thy Federalists,  
In thy old Bedford manse upon the Highlands,  
Where, bathed beneath thee in the snow or mists,  
Manhattan's Greece tints its Ægean islands,  
I see thee life's full third pass in thy grot  
But in no monkish mummeries enshrined! —  
The soul undaunted of the Huguenot  
Built his God's temple in his classic mind.  
Washington was thy Henry of Navarre ;  
For him thou held thy state in loyal fief,  
His mystic presence to the knightly bar,  
His dove-winged envoy to our kinsman chief.  
Thou, Sully! with thy eagle quill at work,  
Wert Zeus at the birth-throes of New York!

## THE SOUL-DRIVER

THE child's awe that I felt of Slavery,  
When from our door they dragged the faithful  
cook,  
I did not need to join a sect to see,  
Nor have it preached at me from any book ;  
And when the freedmen wail the horrid laws  
And massacre is slavery's aftermath,  
I only feel what the volcano was  
From these red lavas of its senile wrath.  
He who was absolute must sometimes kill,  
His Berber sons arrest the mails of light,  
His nation float his soon forgotten bill,

Its flag and trade be halted for his spite.  
When absolution tempts me with its fruit,  
I think that Slavery was absolute.

## PSYCHÉ

THOU art but child; thy willow limbs  
Have hardly set their mould;  
Light of the fawn, thy large eye brims,  
Thy hair is spun of gold;  
So perfect is the woman's might  
Within thy tendril's move,  
My look meets thine almost in fright:  
Hast thou conjectured love?

Thy sex's power at once begins,  
When it has one day's bloom,  
And man's supremest homage wins  
When he draws near his tomb;  
Thy youth, for which he hungereth,  
Is all that can contain  
His immortality from death:  
By love he lives again.

## LINNÆUS

CARL VON LINN fell in the leashes  
Of a female hind:  
Nature is a fight for Species,  
Not for morals nor for mind;  
"Lo! the lilies," spoke the teacher,  
"Looking not above,  
How their clothes outshine the preacher,

Dyed in purpling love ! ”  
Through the air, a blood-drop fallen,  
Speeds the red bird free,  
Carrying the golden pollen  
To the female tree ;  
So the Swede, in passion richest,  
Straight at Nature aims ;  
He who flushed the Magdalena  
Fetched the flowers, Names.

STOCKHOLM, 1889.

## WILLIAM PENN

(HEPWORTH DIXON'S LIFE)

MANLY teller of the tale !  
Thou hast made me thrill and pale.  
Almost tears have dimmed the page, —  
I have felt in Penn's own age.

His the nature one appeal  
From a worldly life could wheel, —  
Quit the brink of rank and rule  
To go live with ridicule ;

For his soul decision had,  
To part instant with the bad,  
And from youth full stature find  
For the conscience in his mind ;

Not the wiggèd court to gain,  
But be noble with the plain.  
In his hat he talked to kings  
On the plane of kingly things,

Till his father's giant pride  
Humbled his strange son's beside,  
Seeing that he did not quail  
Rotting in the stinking jail.

Treading down the earth's contempt  
Dreams high-hearted aye he dreamt,  
Grasped across the ocean's health  
More than Milton's Commonwealth ;

And he touched it with his hand,  
And he landed in his land, —  
Brought the persecuted in ;  
Made them of his wish the kin.

Pennsylvania, wholesome grove !  
Philadelphia, brother's love !  
There the Continental men  
Wrote the will of William Penn.

## DEFOE

BORN a Foe, he sought out foes,  
(There are always hosts of those ; )  
Writing for the grown folks, he  
Gained the height of pillory.  
Then he sat, Himself before,  
Solitary, shipwrecked, poor,  
And gave forth his lonely joys  
To the fresh hearts of the boys :  
Entering there, the world was won, —  
All the world knew Robinson !

## BROOKLYN BRIDGE TOWERS

(AS UNCONNECTED)

BRONTÉS.

BROTHER! are you waiting  
Faithfully for me?  
Stand fast and at last  
I'll reach my hair to thee.  
Though of vacant sight,  
Blindly we are feeling  
Tow'rd each other, till the light,  
Through our sockets stealing  
O'er the stream, in one beam  
Shall meet, and see!

ARGÉS.

Brother! I am listening  
To the words you say,  
As they reach me, whistling  
Across the windy bay.  
Though my feet are cold,  
And they long divide us,  
Here I'll hold till I am old;  
Our echoes shall provide us  
On bounding feet a pathway fleet,  
Till we behold!

BRONTÉS.

Like two gates asunder  
Something swings between.

On our heads the thunder  
Strikes. We stand serene!  
Earliest on our brows,  
Still the latest tarry  
The rosy clouds; the birds in crowds  
Sail round to see us marry.  
We will win, though, my twin,  
Waves intervene!

## ARGÉS.

Hark, behind! the churches  
Faintly lift their bells.  
And far below come and go  
The city's hollow swells;  
Frightened ferry fleets  
Disappear in vapor,  
And the camps of twinkling lamps  
Struggle for a taper.  
To them all, starry tall,  
We are sentinels!

## BRONTÉS.

Aye! I cannot see them,  
Yet I feel them there;  
And clambering stars their silver bars  
Wind o'er me like a stair.  
Brother, does a pulse  
Start not in thy shoulder,  
For a mystic destiny, —  
Something better, bolder —  
When the rainbow its skein  
Twineth in air?

## ARGÉS.

Yes! A host of spirits  
In procession creep  
O'er me silently,  
From darkened deeps of sleep.  
Far away I hear  
Wheels imperious driven  
Up the heights of the atmosphere,  
By the image of Heaven!  
His path we span, and, brother! Man  
Is the charioteer!

1875.

## BARTHOLDI'S PHAROS

(RECITED AT THE LOTOS CLUB DINNER, NOV. 14, 1884)

MANHATTAN Bay in glory lay  
When Verrazano entered;  
His heart was cold, on thoughts of gold  
And ivory concentrated:  
"Now go about and sail we out! —  
Although this scene entrances;  
For we Italians seek rich mines,  
To satisfy King Francis."

The Portugee came in from sea,  
Sir Estevan de Gomez;  
"I smell," said he, "no spicery  
Nor gum, such as at home is;  
King Charles of Spain, he would raise Cain  
And cuss-words use terrific,

If we clove not this granite main  
To cloves of the Pacific."

The Half-Moon next our harbor vexed —  
The Dutchman made appearance —  
The Northwest Passage was his text,  
And Albany his clearance ;  
The Indian damsels pleased his ways, —  
He was a gay deceiver, —  
And nothing met his sordid praise  
But buffalo and beaver.

Next came Lord Howe, guns at his prow,  
His nose and clothes vermilion,  
With Hessian bayonets, to plough  
The hills around new Ilion ;  
Seven years the fleet stayed here to eat, —  
King George he paid the ration, —  
Till French and Yankees down the street  
Saw an evacuation.

The artisan American  
Came now — a buoyant schemer —  
With fleets of fire-winged birds to span  
The shores with many a steamer.  
At Fulton's wand our sparkling pond  
Leaped into life and duty,  
But nothing came to correspond  
Unto the sense of Beauty.

The gold we made, the South-Sea trade,  
The peltries and the spices,  
And mechanisms, like crystal prisms,



Refracted our devices.  
Yet in the heart the spell of Art  
Slept, like the winter throstle,  
Or Faith, in old Diana's mart,  
Awaiting an apostle.

The son of France his kindling glance  
Threw o'er this radiant Edom,  
And like a Bayard of romance  
Knelt to the strength of Freedom ;  
He saw arise athwart our skies  
A Goddess ever living,  
Illumination in her eyes,  
And flame to darkness giving.

Lift high thy torch and forward march,  
O dame of Revolution ! —  
All heaven thy triumphal arch,  
All progress the solution ;  
And from the earth and all its dross  
May man behold the story —  
Friendship is pious as the cross,  
And only Art is glory !

## PHYSICAL HOMAGE

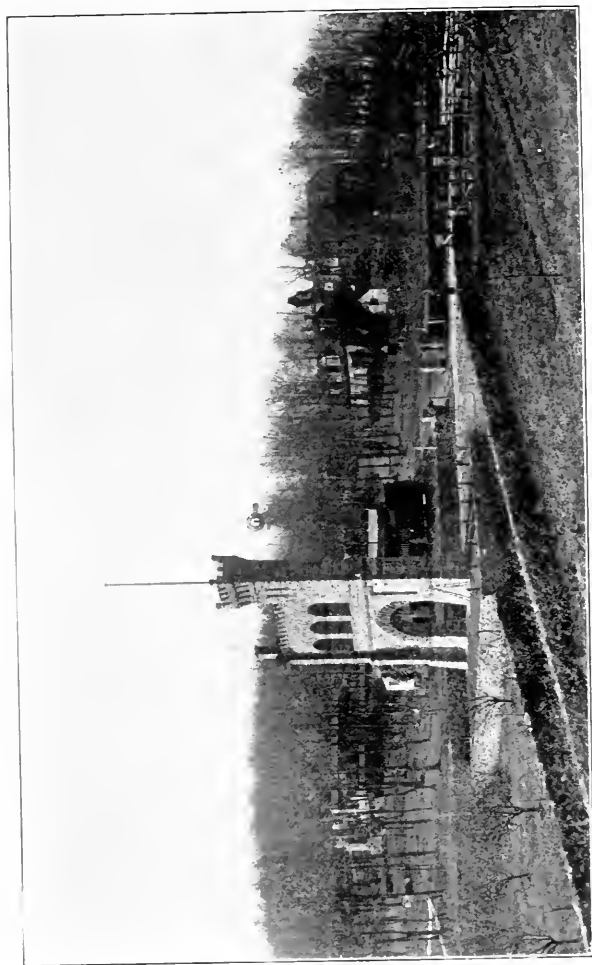
WHEN in the bath men strip together,  
A perfect man has admiration,  
The mould of grace, the thews of leather,  
The noble port of native station ;

No more excelleth moral duty,  
The master mind appears a fakir;  
But procreant health and manly beauty  
Become the image of their Maker.

When to the life the beauteous creature,  
The woman, walks, behold the wonder!  
Divinity in every feature,  
Her worshippers are rent asunder;  
Her beauty rules her moral being,  
Like genius is her stately doing,  
The regent of the Ever-seeing,  
She bends the heavens to her wooing.

The beauty of the worlds in motion  
Attracts each other in their courses;  
Space has its wooings like the ocean,  
And planets feel persuasive forces;  
Perfection everything convulses,  
Beauty is moral elevation,  
The symmetry that stirs our pulses,  
Is an eternal admiration.

Health and selection, joy determine,  
Their progeny our orb inherit;  
"Behold the lilies!" saith the sermon:  
Beauty is the immortal spirit.  
What is unlovely shall not witness  
Final survival of the fitting,  
And separating foul from fitness,  
Venus to judge the world is sitting.



GAPLAND AND WAR CORRESPONDENTS' MONUMENT



## ROWDY SHAH

THERE once was a shah of Persia,  
Common and rowdy and pert,  
Who married by hundreds, virgins,  
To strip them and slide them in dirt;  
A platform over a mudhole  
He built with precipitous slides,  
And called on the court and people  
To see how he muddied his brides.

The fine Events that are blushing —  
The newspapers strip them of pride;  
And I think of the Shah and the mud-hole,  
As I see them rushed down the slide.

## FROM GAPLAND

How blue the mountain is to-day!  
It is not half so far away.  
Distinct on it the shadows play;  
Above it a long band of light,  
Below it a long band of land,  
Revealed in shocks of gathered corn,  
In village spires, wax-candle white,  
And fields like a wide-open hand,  
Shining from a reversed morn  
Below those hills so blue to-day.

The clouds those hills, so blue to-day,  
Seem to throw upward as they lay,

From that bright landscape's underplay,  
Make all that blueness far away.  
The clouds our lives project above  
Follow so close our long career,<sup>†</sup>  
They paint it with distinctive strength,  
They bring it nearer human love,  
Tone it like echoes to the ear,  
And accent through their graceful length  
The heights that are so dark to-day.

## MORSE

THE simplest life told well's a treat.  
One push makes any life complete ;  
One grapple with our deadly fears  
Carries us to victorious years :  
One night in the dark with foes at hand,  
A starving year in a foreign land,  
To hold a pen and take a stand :  
The effort is the fort betaken,  
The bolder that your heart is shaken ;  
And every young accomplishment  
Is a lady in the soldier's tent.  
When all but avarice is sated,  
And thou hast lived with her thou mated,  
Tell all thou didst with truthfulness, —  
Thy book shall also be success !

"MAKE ME A LAP"

BACK in those days ere I thought of love,  
Kissing at games in a picnic grove,  
Cried one lass as she made a spring :  
"Make me a Lap! you stingy thing!"  
Down in my lap sat the tired madcap  
And in a snap she had "made her a Lap."

Lissome, pliant, innocent vine,  
Still to my heart I can feel her twine,  
Trustfully as my kitten's play,  
Light as the birds in that greenwood day;  
Sweet as the sap in the fruit tree's tap,  
Vine-like her wrap as I "made her a Lap."

Country heart! there is no mishap,—  
Some good husband has "made thee a Lap";  
In thy lap to thy trust's behove,  
Children spring in the gush of love :  
Thou had'st no trap of "setting thy cap,"  
Teaching a chap how to "make thee a Lap."

Earth is wide but its infinite map  
Is peopled by courage that leaped in a Lap.  
Cold, prude hearts that would Love go round  
Consolation have partly found.  
Boldly they rap who would wake from his nap  
The partner whose snap can "make them a Lap."

Widow young! whose grief has been true,  
But who has brightened to life anew!

There is a lonely man somewhere  
Waiting for thee if thou wouldst but dare :  
Fill up the gap in his life's mishap !  
Set him thy cap ! he can "make thee a Lap."

Maid, too long ! art thou not exact ?  
Not far off must thy worth attract.  
Do not shrink from the fate to be !  
How did thy mother love for thee ?  
Smooth thy rough nap ! for thyself keep no scrap !  
So did it hap ere She "made thee a Lap."

Man to man, be not too removed !  
Bashful friendship is not oft loved.  
Thou must leap in the heart of thy friend,  
If he would carry thee out to life's end.  
Throw up thy cap ! Say, "Love me, old chap !"  
Thou wilt be loved ; he will "make thee a Lap."

Father ! Son ! if there come a space  
'Twixt your affectionate embrace,  
Let it not grow o'ershadowing home, —  
Ye must kiss in the death to come !  
Close up the gap ; ye have mutual sap :  
Sonny and pap ! "make each other a Lap !"

#### FIRST BLACKBIRDS

As I sit at my window bay  
Just o'er a Gap's abyss,  
A sound mysterious comes my way —  
It sounds so like a kiss !



Who is it, kissing fierce and fast  
Within my library? —  
As I kissed her I caught at last  
When I was young as she?

No, 'tis not there, though kisses were —  
They come up from the woods;  
Are angels kissing in the air,  
Or mountain girls, in hoods?  
With smacks like those, old satyrs wooed  
Cold nymphs a stream conceives:  
(Such kisses leave babes in the wood  
Among the trampled leaves.)

It sounds like fright and appetite,  
Complaint and jubilee,  
Like sleighbells coming in the night,  
And boiling punch, or tea.  
So ends this last of mysteries  
As I my door unlock:  
It is the blackbirds in my trees,  
The first October flock!

I start them from their chilly roost, —  
They fly like bolts from bows;  
Like inky authors, bedlam-loosed,  
Who murmur and compose.  
Still crackles all the morn like frost,  
That sighing music is;  
It says that summer's something lost,  
And life a farewell kiss.

The earth shall some day cool and we —  
We know not what or for —  
Will flock together dismally  
Along the Equatór.  
But life will dye the snowflake red,  
As long as it can float,  
And from the frozen sun o'erhead  
Will kiss the blackbird's note !

## HANGING LAMP

I WISH my father had the story known —  
Its interest his sermon would have nerved —  
How the cathedral lamp was ever blown  
That Galileo with his pulse observed,  
And as it swung, he counted his heart's  
beating,  
And planned a miracle in that dull meeting.

Imagination came to me, I wot,  
In those old churches by the piney forest,  
But mathematics was not in my thought,  
Not measure in the bawling Christian chorist;  
Romance, that is theology again,  
I drank in church and useless am to men.

O, had the dogma with some wise restraining  
Child-fancy forced on grooves exact to swerve,  
As old Mahomet did forbid them painting  
And made them draw the cosine and the curve,  
In algebraic strength I had projected  
More than Aladdin's lamp ways did traverse,

And into heaven passed the God-elected  
Among the sure feet of astronomers.

The Popes who Copernik were negating  
And Galileo silenced but not sieved,  
Were not as ignorant as preachers living  
Who know not Copernik has ever lived,  
But follow heathens in their horrid fearing  
Of hornèd Gods like Babylonian kings,  
While Learning bends the heavens with persevering.  
And parting symbols, finds eternal Things, —  
Finds not our human semblance domineering,  
But motion as susceptible as strong,  
Worlds without end exquisitely insphering  
And praise intuning, tenderer than song.

For us, the heirs of countless predecessors,  
By Time unanxious to our boyhood brought,  
We do not enter Nature as transgressors,  
But on our hand the signet ring of Thought;  
Death is our mellowing; facts kill its terrors:  
Both Birth and Death like noble brethren go.  
The sum of our exaggerated errors  
Is that we romanced, and we did not know.

## AS THE CROW FLIES

THE air paths go unto homes we do not know,  
But we see that the birds fly straight;  
They have errands where the bow  
Gilds the storm and in the glow



That is rosy at the sunset's gate :  
    As the dove flies,  
    As the crow flies,  
At the end of everywhere is a mate.

The soul's paths go to a home they cannot show,  
    But not to a home of hate ;  
As the stag to seek his doe,  
As the arrow from the bow,  
The errand of the soul is straight :  
    As the dove flies,  
    As the crow flies,  
Darts the soul that is homesick to its mate.

The seed paths go to a home far down below,  
    But we know that the sprouts rise straight  
To the light that is aglow,  
To the air that kindles so,  
To the heaven of the recreate :  
    As the dove flies,  
    As the crow flies,  
The errand of the flower is to mate.

The rain paths go to the caves of frost and snow,  
    But we see that the springs flow straight  
To the fields the farmers mow,  
To the cattle lowing low,  
    To the rivers that are wide and great :  
    As the dove flies,  
    As the crow flies,  
The spirits in the elements must mate.

The world's paths go upon arcs so calm and slow,  
That we know not we course like fate,  
But the stars in groups that go  
Sired the planets twinkling low,  
And the universes pair in state :  
As the dove flies,  
As the crow flies,  
Flash the lights, never meeting, to their mate.

Forever, loving man! drive on thy caravan!  
Thou canst not be selfish and great;  
For what is thy little span  
To the universal plan,  
And the faith of the congregate?  
As the dove flies,  
As the crow flies,  
Immortality seek in thy mate.

## IRON HILL

(DELAWARE)

YON blue plateau to all seems low,  
Whose minds some mountain fills,  
Except us there in Delaware,  
Who ne'er saw higher hills;  
At Newark's old academy,  
It almost shook our will,  
To walk so far and scale that bar  
The dome of Iron hill.

On holidays we saw the haze  
Around its woodlands lie;

To climb those goals, our level souls  
Seemed tempting destiny ;  
The lesser boys they cease their noise  
And hold their laughter still,  
To come more near those heights of fear,  
On shaggy Iron hill.

Beneath its head the iron, red,  
Of ancient ore banks stood,  
Where goblin Swedes their evil deeds  
Revealed in stains of blood ;  
Their metal arts our country hearts  
Uncanny thought and ill, —  
From murdered man the oxides ran  
That tinctured Iron hill !

The tombs we search at old Welsh church  
That guards the cairn's ascent ;  
In Cymric writ, those stones of grit  
Increase our fear's ferment :  
Beneath, the dead, above blood, red ! —  
The lonely wood paths thrill  
Our ghost-awed wits ; the old ore pits  
Seem graves on Iron hill !

We think we see from some tall tree,  
The blue-veined landscapes, where  
One far-off streak is Chesapeake,  
Another Delaware ;  
Their long white length this knoll has strength  
To sunder by its will ;  
It disarrays those mighty bays —  
The wand of Iron hill.

In those small years, upon such fears  
My fancy learned to thrill.  
An elevation on me lay, —  
The swell of Iron hill.  
The misty moods of altitudes,  
Romance's glow and chill;  
And not more high Mount Sinai  
To me, than Iron hill.

## BUILDING

THE mountain summit grows apace  
With walls and walks and spires,  
The tribute to ancestral place  
By one of waning fires,  
Who never loved but haunts of men,  
And earned in cities, bread,  
Yet sought the shaggy rock and glen  
To lay, at last, his head.

The thrill of Nature in his craze  
Was like his love of play —  
Medicinal for some brief days,  
And, then, to turn away:  
To try the mart and measure Art  
With captains of his guild,  
Then, in the lonely mountain's heart,  
To dig and plan and build.

His habitation who can know,  
When life is but a breath?  
Or that his bones are safe below  
The cheerless den of death?

Yet, in their day, all builded well, —  
Like warrior ants their hills, —  
And tender beauty haunts the cell  
Taste and Industry wills.

No house stands faster than this earth  
Which no abiding gives,  
Yet love and hope and faith and birth  
Build, while the changeling lives.  
Our heaven is promised mansions, too,  
Not made with human hod,  
As if the angels nothing knew  
Like Building round their God.

So if we leave where nothing stood  
Some structure pure and true,  
Succeeding times will count it good  
And others learn to do.  
The bookman's art is left behind  
And letters only vex ;  
Write, then in stone, ye men of mind !  
And live as architects !

#### BOCCACCIO

RELIGION is of sex, love sacramental,  
So say the physiologists of love.  
Then is not Literature testamental  
Born of the soiled and unangelic dove ?  
Boccacció, gallant of light Maria !  
In thy amour Italian language sprang  
More than from Dante's stately Jeremiah



Or Petrarch's lute that had the proper twang ;  
Thy look upon King Robert's daughter, mated,  
Thy tales blushed into progeny impure,  
The tongues of Europe were articulated  
And stolen kisses started Literature.  
Out of the ages black and castellated,  
There climbed the lawless and luxuriant vine,  
And Christian lore, when love was satiated,  
Told legends of the Heavens concubine.  
Monks shrinking from the tender imitation,  
Sang in the chorus of the passion-blest,  
And in the hives of Romanesque creation  
Returned the Isis-bee of human rest.  
So, Europe's Letters broke the dungeon portal ;  
Love's spasms set all tongues to twittering !  
Love, only Love, can feed the life immortal !  
When love is rested angels cannot sing.

## OLD KENT

I AM back in the court-house village ;  
The houses remain as before ;  
One or two old roofs may have perished,  
But the neighbors have builded no more ;  
The river creeps under the drawbridge,  
The wharves are a little more rotten,  
The streets are as grassy and sandy,  
And the college more lone and forgotten.

It is sad that the faces are stranger  
When the place so familiar appears !

I came with my heart expectant,—  
It is only twenty years;  
But the big boys stare at me queerly,  
And the little boys flatter my tailor,  
While the old men look suspicious  
From the constable down to the jailer.

Only the innkeeper greets me  
Like the long-expected one,  
And makes me believe a little  
In the tale of the prodigal son;  
The fatted calf he slaughters,  
The calf that is tough and arid,  
Like the townsfolk's beauteous daughters,  
Who have all "gone off and got married."

There is Mary, with seven children,  
And Marion, jilted and wan,  
Saffronia gone to the shambles,  
And Emma, gone under the lawn;  
Proud Sally, an editor's conquest, —  
What a fate for an exquisite creature!  
And Margie, whose husband is richest,  
A note-shaving Methodist preacher.

Not so were the old-time preachers,  
Who rode on this Eastern Shore;  
I seek out the grim brick parsonage, —  
Two years 'twas my father's door;  
I see blink northward the window,  
In the gable so broad and bulky,  
The lot of grass for the old gray mare,  
And the stable for saddle and sulky.

There was his study lattice  
Where often he wrote and prayed ;  
And there the garden wicket  
Whence he came to promenade ;  
And bowed to white and to negro, —  
A pastor, no partisan, —  
The women said : “ He is handsome ! ”  
And the men said : “ A gentleman ! ”

By starlight on Sunday morning  
He kissed my mother adieu,  
And threaded the Necks of the Chesapeake,  
In the snow-storm or the dew ;  
Old cross-roads chapels grew temples  
While he lit with his radiant face,  
The truest and longest sermons  
That ever brought sinners to grace.

No priest of the Roman conclave  
Had tact or *bonhomie* more ;  
No brigand, armed to the gorget,  
Felt safer the wild woods o'er ;  
Priest, friend, Franciscan and doctor,  
At length his renown appears, —  
A spirit of civilization,  
A statesman on man's frontiers !

And so, I shall quit the village,  
Content my escutcheon to show ;  
Content that nothing is stirring,  
But the worm that's at work below,  
And the soul of the seed, hence wafted,  
Which the Lord of the Harvest must seek,  
In the little old-fashioned places,  
That doze by the Chesapeake.

## SAINT GEORGE

WHEN I behold the web around us drawn  
From infant pulp to ignorance's end,  
To forestall knowledge and the mind transcend  
With superstitions from the Arab dawn ;  
When I see woman, whether doe or fawn,  
Hold man's mind back and her stag offspring bend,  
And her one half of our progression pawn  
At Mont de Piété ; when I do count  
The unproducing host of medicine men,  
Who nibble learning on the convent lawn,  
To low, like cattle, from their twilight pen,  
That what we know not is life's only fount :  
I see a task to make my spirit mount,  
I feel my strength is as the strength of ten.

## OLD FRANK BLAIR

No more that lost old twain to town  
Shall trot in various weather —  
The broad-brimmed hat and great coat brown  
And snow-white braids together ;  
The snug green home at Silver Springs  
One hermit less shall pension,  
She waits to hear the warning wings  
And summons of ascension.

Scotch as the pibroch of Argyle,  
Hard as the granite Highland,  
Their fire domestic smoked the while,  
Blue as o'er Ellen's island ;

And there they nursed the loyal love  
Of old Saint Andrew's story,  
And deemed the Lord's high court above  
Stern as his reign of glory.

Not rebel flames around their roof  
New Orleans' guns could silence,  
Nor Freedom's statue look reproof,  
Like Jackson's grim surveillance,  
Which met the traitors in their mart  
And made their leader tremble,  
And never bent the statesman's art  
To palter or dissemble.

Van Buren's long and subtle skill  
And Benton's various knowledge,  
And stout Old Hickory's lofty will  
And Kendall's lore of college,  
And plastic grace of Silas Wright,  
Their golden era bounded,  
While Francis Blair, both squire and knight,  
The Koran's page compounded.

Not for the bondman's smothered sighs,  
Nor labor, low and humble,  
*He* hailed the Northern columns rise,  
The Southron's kingdom crumble;  
He only saw the dark Calhoun  
Above the thunderous action,  
And Jackson's spirit, not too soon,  
Ride forth to smite the faction!

The long revenge of stubborn years —  
The private vindication —  
He heard above the cannoneers,  
When others hailed a Nation.  
And scarce had victory struck her tents, —  
The feudal code revising, —  
He felt, in hardening heart and sense,  
The old reaction rising.

The grass-grown forts that to his door  
Brought bloody retrospections,  
A less irreverent echo bore  
Than Freedom's full elections ;  
Yet neither back nor forward halt  
The rival waves of passion ;  
Alack ! the times were all at fault —  
The Blairs were out of fashion !

And so, in bootless intrigue pressed  
His clannish boys their mettle ;  
And one, most gallant, passed to rest,  
The other lived to fettle,  
Till darkness fell on Silver Springs —  
Death's oft-deferred intention ! —  
But one awaits the warning wings  
And summons of ascension.

Rest there, thou loyal advocate  
And undissembled Hector !  
Where o'er the sward the dome of State  
Throws its impartial spectre !

Not less than thou we littler pens  
 Forget in one devotion,  
 Time's infinite circumference,  
 And history's boundless ocean.  
 1876.

ULYSSES S. GRANT

MARCH 4, 1869

YONDER the Capitol stands ; the people perhaps  
 are assembling.  
 I know the inaugural music by the ground and  
 windows trembling ;  
 I tremble a little myself, as, with a Cadet's desire,  
 On the field of Palo Alto I first went under fire.  
 My carriage waits at the gate ; the manes of my  
 span are rippling  
 Like those of the great wild studs I broke in Ohio,  
 a stripling !  
 But I never owned a cloak as my coachman's half  
 so good,  
 When I reined down the streets of St. Louis on  
 my wagon-load of wood.  
 I know that this is no dream ; my fancy was never  
 so strong  
 As to dream a great deal higher than just to get  
 along ;  
 And that was enough for an honest dream — as  
 Lincoln used to say  
 That better than building castles was steady "peg-  
 ging away."

The four gold stars on my shoulder, the sword  
upon my hip,  
I have put away with my salesman's pen and my  
teamster's leather whip,  
And perhaps these different keepsakes my children  
would rather choose  
For the symbols of their Father than the Politician's  
screws.

Still wise are the politicians, and the fact that is  
most to be prized  
In this world of infinite wisdom is, Nothing must  
be despised.  
But God, whom I thank, has thus far permitted  
me success  
By the soberest endeavor and a simple No or Yes.

I sat up late last evening with the speech I am to  
deliver,  
Thinking again of barrack-life out on the Colum-  
bia river,  
When I used to conceive in the pipe-smoke that  
curled about my tent,  
What sort of a strange old chap might be at the  
head of the government:

Whether he ever wondered what we poor Captains  
won,  
With our wives and babies camp-bound by the  
mud or by the sun,  
Away from civilization without a play or a school,  
Save the music of a fifer or the bray of a teamster's  
mule:



Whether he felt our impulse half Mexico to bag,  
Or to march upon Vancouver's and lower the  
English flag,  
To summon the Indian traders up to a Drum-head  
Court,  
Or to court the Indian woman who loitered around  
the fort.

It seemed a lost, lost youth to me, and somewhat  
did I reckon  
The school to Cerro Gordo, the way to Chapul-  
tepec,  
When, by such devious civil paths, the heights of  
empire came,  
And Fame was but an accident, and Power lived  
close to Shame.

Now, looking back, the way seems plain, as from  
the mountain crags  
At doubtful Chattanooga I read the signal flags;  
The frontier post, the tannery, the farm of barren  
land,  
Were parts of the line of battle, and Providence  
had command.

I felt the guns of Sumter like old acquaintances  
Come back to me in anger and give but one  
redress —  
An earthquake split the nation, and when the frag-  
ments blent  
Myself was on the pinnacle and millions in the  
rent!

Upon the dizzy height I stood, as yonder, looking  
down,  
Stands Freedom, poised upon her sword, above  
the gazing town —  
And politicians, creeping up, explain the State to me  
Much as the devil described the world to him of  
Galilee.

The drums I hear sound hollower than those which  
beat to arms;  
To some they beat to holiday, to me they beat  
alarms —  
To battle-drums fell soldiers' feet on sacrifices bent;  
These feet leave all the battle to the coming  
President.

Ten thousand office-seekers to their own inaug-  
ural wind;  
A million feeble partisans walk thoughtlessly  
behind.  
When those be disappointed, then these will be  
malcontent,  
And still on his lonely pinnacle must stand the  
President.

Yet by the strong attrition which crumbled Treason's wrath,  
In summer or in winter fighting it out on that  
path,  
I shall move on the works civilian till the govern-  
ment adored  
Of the people, by the people, for the people be  
restored!

BENJAMIN HARRISON

1888

HAIL to the grandson better  
Than the old grandsire's fetter  
Of lands and station !  
Hail to dependence done !  
Hail to the Harrison  
New as the nation !

Wide lands of Symmes may roll  
In suck of Symmes's hole, —  
The pole star winking ;  
But all the land is his  
Whose victory Freedom's is,  
And birthright, Thinking.

The anvils sound the gains  
From melted slavery's chains, —  
The Bourbon wonders,  
While batteries of the mills  
Speak out to all the hills  
The furnace thunders.

By God-forsaken farms  
The market city swarms  
And ends dejection,  
Free ships the railways bear ;  
Free Trade is everywhere  
And all's Protection.

Thy grandsire British fought,  
Thy father toiled for naught  
And died unnoted;  
The music of the mills  
Can never pierce the hills  
Where slaves are *voted*.

The late taskmasters arm  
And call their hate Reform,  
And us their Neighbor;  
None but wage-payers can  
Feed the free artisan  
And muster labor!

Roll on, old ball! once more,  
My fathers rolled of yore,—  
Roll mightier, wider!  
May Henry's cup come back  
In Benjamin's corn sack,  
And all have cider!

### SALT RIVER<sup>1</sup>

A STATELY river like a silent aisle,  
Led through the cliffs of limestone mile on mile,  
And far inland a green and cool retreat,  
Lay all embowered and hid from human feet.  
The laurel grew to arbors for repose,  
The long blue grass was dyed by many a rose,

<sup>1</sup> Defeated candidates for the Presidency were long said to have "gone up Salt River."

The high gray walls with oaks were corniced o'er  
And dropped their creepers to the crystal shore ;  
And there were walks in groves where silence grew  
Profounder for the note of the cuckoo,  
Where they, the philosophic few, could walk  
In high Arcadian fellowship and talk ;  
Who climbed each step but one of power's ascent,  
And, losing that, were doomed to banishment :  
A little handful driven from the sun  
Of power to a lonelier Pantheon,  
Here they discussed the empire they resigned  
And nobler empires of the human mind.

One year in four the wafted vessel sped ;  
A wounded eagle guided it o'erhead.  
The beaten hero who had lost a realm  
Blew onward without mariner or helm.  
Fate filled the wind, nor foe nor friend pursued,  
But grander nature gave her solitude.  
No more the world its censure or applause  
Heaped on his head, his memory, or his cause.  
Grave and respectful was his welcome made,  
And immemorial in this high arcade  
He kept converse with statesmen as they came,  
And felt how Time was kinder still than Fame.

Once on the strand they who the sceptre lost,  
Waited at four years' close him to accost  
Whose boat was due. And oldest of them all  
Was one of figure soldierly and tall ;  
At Bemis Heights an army back he bore  
And took the sword their sullen General wore.

For this he sought to pierce the splendid sun  
Where steadier fortune set her Washington.  
Cast down for such presumption, he abides  
The oldest exile on these silent tides.

In stature less, but not in spirit so,  
Stand two who once were mortal foe and foe :  
One fell before the other's deadly aim,  
But all the winds of Heaven blew his fame ;  
The other sought in various empires place,  
And lived a long and solitary race.  
Still, as they meet in this sequestered spot,  
Where mind is mind and rivalry is not,  
The victim knows, perchance, their fate reversed,  
Had made the martyr of the man accursed.  
Again in talk old York's redoubt they storm,  
And at Quebec the ranks of Arnold form ;  
The Senate's head and the Exchequer's source  
Twinkle with themes for luminous discourse.  
Rivière du Sel ! What Lethe flows in thee  
Where such as Burr and Hamilton agree ?

Who comes with this judicial, searching face —  
Scotch in his nature, Southern in his grace ?  
'Tis he a Congress chose to lead the crowd,  
But to the spite of rancorous faction bowed.  
Two exiled here and two who might have been  
Poured on his head their jealousy and spleen ;  
Since then, tumultuous assemblies make  
Rulers, or exiles to this lonely lake.  
Yet serving well through good or ill report,  
None fear in fame with Crawford to consort.

No, nor that trio yonder in the glen,  
With heads of gods on bodies like to men ;  
The one whose eyes like diamonds in a vault  
Might lead the mind high heaven to assault,  
And prove that God's intention was at fault :  
None lost the sceptre with so deep regret,  
No mind on power was so divinely set,  
None in its fulness was more fit to rule,  
None in its loss to play the graver fool.  
Still in the wildness of his whitened hair  
There lies the pallor of a long despair.  
Rejected from his kingdom like a Saul,  
He raised a prophet and foreboded all.  
Yet all he saw by logic came to pass :  
A nervous giant in a house of glass,  
Debate and hate, revolt, contention, gore —  
The slave a freeman and the master poor.  
Though in the mart his wasted ashes lie,  
Here in Valhalla walks Calhoun for aye.

Earnest as he, but lighted like a star,  
Shines there the visage of an orator :  
Ithuriel's stature and a trumpet's tone :  
Where'er he walks he leads, and he alone.  
Thrice in the lists he rode to take the crown,  
Thrice in the dust his princely head went down.  
But though defeated, all the world agree  
He had the plenitude of chivalry.  
Still in his smile this twilight turns to day,  
And nature brightens at the name of Clay.

Austere, revered, voluptuous, endowed  
With fire and darkness like a thunder cloud,

Roves he whose eyes with tender greatness shine !  
Who stood like Moses on the mountain line,  
Worthy to take God's tablets of the law  
And break them to a multitude in awe ;  
But not to pass into the promised state,  
To die unmurmuring, even at the gate,  
And leave the name of Webster to the land,  
One just too human to be wholly grand.

Here stands but one who wore the crown awhile  
And lost it with a wrinkle and a smile —  
The live Van Buren, greater in defeat  
Than blandly minist'ring in Cæsar's seat.  
The torch he wielded better than the sword ;  
In his revolt reeled down the feudal lord.  
He tarried long behind his time and went  
To exile like a veteran to his tent.

Yet there is one whom death bequeathed the  
    throne,  
And sought to win it, living, for his own :  
The gracious Fillmore, fashioned best for love,  
To play Apollo at the fall of Jove ;  
He saw, like Seward, an invader sail  
To conquest, though himself had raised the gale,  
And both recite in this enshrined retreat  
Their country's glory in their own defeat.

So also he who found the mountain path —  
Fremont — but not the road that glory hath, —  
And martial Scott, whose many cubits bring  
The office of the Guardsman, not the King.  
Together these the limpid ripples glass :



The subtle Douglas and the timid Cass ;  
The yearning Chase, with ermine on his breast,  
Over a heart sick in a sceptre's quest ;  
High-mettled Breckinridge by exile bowed ;  
And young McClellan, Hamlet of the crowd ;  
With cautious Seymour in the whirlwind spent,  
That threw a soldier forward from his tent.  
They speak together, hearty and unvexed,  
"Who spies the shallop? Who is coming next?"

1872.

#### DEATH OF THE SIAMESE TWINS

CHANG and Eng were gallant twins  
Discovered in Siam,  
And Eng grew up at Sabbath school,  
While Chang he loved a slam ;  
A gristly rivet joined the twain,  
The which would not unscrew,  
So pious Eng was always slain  
When Chang got on a slew.

In politics Eng was a Whig,  
And Chang a Democrat,  
And when they held an argument  
It ended in a spat,  
And often when the vote was slick,  
And both sides scored a brother,  
'Twas thought throughout the bailiwick,  
They must contest each other.

Poor Eng he loved a Quaker maid  
Who would not roost with Changy,  
Because he came to bed so drunk  
And said his prayers so slangy;  
They compromised, and took a pair,  
And lived in great dejection, —  
The brothers wanted a divorce,  
The sisters a dissection.

And Eng he loved to sing a hymn,  
And Chang to fight a chicken;  
Whenever Eng exhorted Chang  
He got a martyr's lickin';  
If in the church Eng led his class  
'Twould make an angel kick up,  
To see the one with unction pray,  
And t'other sleep and hiccup.

They called a hundred surgeons in  
To pass the righteous sentence,  
If 'twould be safe to take a knife  
And cut their own acquaintance.  
The Doctors of their hyphen felt  
And came to this solution:  
'Twas an action 'twixt the Little Belt  
And the navel Constitution.

At last Chang would not sleep at all,  
So much he was a soaker,  
And kept his brother sitting up  
To while him at draw poker;  
And when he died the wretch remarked:

“The Lord must raise our bodies —  
And I shall have all Eng’s reward,  
And likewise all those toddies.”

The ladies sold the frail remains  
To serve a human mission;  
The Doctors beat Sir Barnum out  
And gave an exhibition;  
They found the belt a derrick was,  
Two sacks — one thin, one thicker —  
And Eng had had to brace the beam,  
While Chang contained the liquor.  
1874.

## THE FIRE GUEST

CARRIERS’ ADDRESS, CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 1872

THE fire burns bright on my hearth to-night;  
Thanks to God for its warmth and light!  
Warming the toes of our laughing boys,  
Radiant over their Christmas toys;  
Chasing the ghosts around the ceiling,  
Filling our hearts with grateful feeling,  
Ushering in the visions of rest,—  
Welcome forever, thou beautiful guest!

See the fire from the engine gleaming!  
See it over the lighthouse streaming!  
Faithful and cheery, see it shine,  
Down in the tunnel and deep in the mine!  
Whence, O servant! didst thou inherit  
Thy willing power and mighty spirit?

Forests of giant trees, they say,  
Waved once their boughs in the light of day,  
And down their gorgeous blossoms hurled  
In the profligate life of a young, new world;  
But the world rolled back and they crackled and  
bowed,

Like the stars of heaven rolled under a cloud,  
And still in their crystal caverns deep,  
Blossom, and beauty, and strength they keep;  
And the tints of the forest return to invest  
The blooming anew of our beautiful guest.

Alas, thou truant! Thou canst not see  
The ache in our hearts for the freak of thee,  
When leaping out of thy cage one night,  
Across the city thou took'st thy flight,  
Knowing no more of the havoc and wrack,  
Than the harmless heart of a maniac.  
Thou thought'st it merry to imitate  
On a grander scale, the glow of thy grate;  
And the noise thou mad'st in thy diligence  
Drowned the cry we lifted in impotence:  
"O God! O Fire! Our hearthstones spare!  
Oh, best of servants, return, forbear!  
Oh, worst of masters, be satisfied  
With the rent thou hast made in the mart of our  
pride!"

In vain; we heard in thy wild carouse  
The buried forest's thunderous boughs,  
And the brilliant blossoms that grew so high,  
Again in their splendor climbed the sky.  
We fled from the blaze like the prairie quail,

Or birds from their nests at the scream of the gale,  
And stood in the night by the ruins' gleam,  
Like the highway vagrant aroused from his dream.  
Our Altars were gone and our walls overthrown ;  
Our temples were razed and our monuments prone ;  
Our boast—God forgive us ! thou doest all best—  
Chicago had flown like its beautiful guest.

O beautiful fire ! returned anew,  
To show us the faces courageous and true,  
Assembled again around hearthstones low,  
But warmed into hope by thy innocent glow !  
The paintings were gone that reflected thy ray ;  
The books that beguiled the close of the day ;  
The burnished mirror, the carriage and span,  
And the trophies of artist and artisan ;  
But something remained from the embers and  
wreck—

The wife heroic that clung to our neck ;  
Our sons that are never degenerate ;  
Our purpose, returned, like the flame in the grate,  
To build the beautiful city again,  
As a tower unto fate and example to men.  
Oh ! fire of the household, what carrier doves  
Flew into our windows laden with loves,  
From human nature— from foreign queen—  
From Pharisee and from Magdalene !  
Then, never till then, as thou canst attest,  
We wept in thy presence, our beautiful guest !

This New Year's time, O kindly fire !  
We gather around thee closer and nigher.

Be unto us a scourge no more,  
But be that kindlier friend of yore,  
Which warmed the cold limbs, sore and wet,  
Of river-seeking, good Marquette,  
And made the prairie like an inn  
To lonely father Hennepin !  
Burn brightly, while we keep in peace  
Our dream of empire and increase,  
As when the white man's vessel started  
Our river's ripples long ago,  
And calmly slept the lion-hearted  
La Salle, beside the camp fire's glow !

Show us, O fire ! in thy graceful curling,  
The hut of the negro pioneer,  
And the flag of Dearborn first unfurling  
In the prairie's smoky atmosphere ;  
The low *pirogues* of the bold post trader  
Set under the bank of poplar trees,  
And the prowling form of the Indian raider,  
Gartered with skunk's skin around the knees !  
And hide, O fire ! that scene in phlebotomy,  
When the garrison filed through the stockade wall,  
And Winnebago and Pottowattamie  
Kept time to the tune of the dead march in Saul !

Who said that Chicago was perished, but blundered,  
Though the silence of nature returned to the moor,  
The gray wolf howled where the cannon had thundered,

And the wild goose piped to the *voyageur* :  
To divide up our raiment contended all races, —  
The French of St. Louis, the folks of Calumet ;  
Toledo, Milwaukee, and other small places,  
The which to enumerate is to forget.  
But the soldiers returned to their station,  
Again the artillery spake,  
And like a divine exhalation,  
Chicago arose by the lake !  
It was thee, O thou tyrant ! that glowest, —  
Unaware of thy freak or our ire, —  
'Twas by thee that we conquered, thou knowest, —  
Thou builder and spoiler, the fire !  
To thy harness return, we forgive thee ;  
For the traffic thou gav'st, go in quest !  
And the city revived shall enshrine thee,  
    Its beautiful guest !

Ah, me ! The cold toes this winter,  
And the candles burnt out in the socket ;  
Let us give them that tinder-box, money,  
And burn a warm hole in their pocket !  
There's a *carrier's* foot ! Who would shun him ?  
Perhaps his extremities ache ;  
Let us heap coals of fire upon him,  
And burn him alive at our stake !  
Then, to-night, be he son or be sire,  
As he counts o'er his coins of bequest,  
He will smile at that terrible fire,  
And call it HIS BEAUTIFUL GUEST !

## SPINOZA

SWEET type of Jew ! except that thou  
 Earned with thy hands thy frugal food,  
 And led not crowds but solitude,  
 I almost seem to feel thee, now,  
 The highest proof of Holyrood !  
 Polishing lenses for the light  
 That is the Revelation pure,  
 Thy convex mind infinite sight  
 Glassed of the wide Infinitude  
 And graved pellucid Literature :  
 Nature and Mind one substance were,  
 The bread and wine religions take ;  
 God-will aboundeth everywhere  
 And cannot anything forsake.

## EVENTS AND CREED

(RANKE'S HISTORY OF THE POPES)

EVENTS rule all : irruptive Rome made Christ ;  
 Irruptive Greece Italian knowledge woke.  
 The Christian fantasy, by facts advised, —  
 When classic Art pontificates enticed, —  
 Erudite monks the see of Cæsars broke :  
 Wickliffe and Huss, Luther and Bruno spoke  
 While modelled Angelo and Raphael ;  
 The voice of Letters dealt the void a stroke  
 As finds its tongue the dumb, sepulchral bell.  
 So cannot rest the aye resurgent mind ;  
 Wave upon wave resultant movements thresh



The rock of Peter or the caves of hell,  
And every human billow that does grind  
The dikes of credence, keeps the ocean fresh.

## IN RAMA

A LITTLE face there was,  
When all her pains were done,  
Beside that face I loved :  
They said it was a son.  
A son to me — how strange —  
Who never was a man,  
But lived from change to change  
A boy, as I began !

More boyish still the hope  
That leaped within me, then :  
That I, matured in him,  
Should found a house of men,  
And all my wasted sheaves,  
Bound up in his ripe shock,  
Give seed to sterner times  
And name to sterner stock.

He grew to that ideal,  
And blossomed in my sight.  
Strange questions filled his day,  
Sweet visions in the night ;  
Till he could walk with me,  
Companion, hand in hand.  
But nothing seemed to be  
Like him, in wonder-land.

For he was leading me  
Beyond the bounds of mind,  
Far down eternity,  
And I so far behind.  
One day an angel stepped  
Out of the idle sphere ;  
The man had entered in,  
The boy is weeping here.

My house is founded there,  
In heaven, that he has won.  
Shall I be outlawed, then,  
O, Lord! who hast my son?  
This grief that makes me old,  
Those tears that make me pure,  
They tell me time is time,  
And only heaven mature.

1874

## RACHEL

(DELAWARE GUNNER'S WHISTLE)

DOWN in the marshes of the Christeen creek  
Lives a little reed-bird on which I sneak,  
She is so fat that she looks right short  
But when she flies she is real good sport.  
Rachel! Rachel! why don't you run?  
Don't you know, Rachel, I carry a gun?  
Rachel! Rachel! I love you the most,  
If I could get you how you would toast!

She has a nest on the Christeen creek ;  
Come to it softly and don't you speak !

Down in the reeds on the flood-tide bog  
 I have a skiff and a pointer dog.  
 Rachel! Rachel! why don't you fly?  
 When he sees Rachel the dog points shy.  
 Rachel! Rachel! I tremble too,  
 Loading my heart in my gun for you!

Soft are the stars in the Christeen creek  
 When in the evening my bird I seek,  
 Plump is her breast in her yellow gown  
 Soft is her plumage as reed-bird down.  
 Rachel! Rachel! why don't you tweet?  
 When you know, Rachel, I could you eat?  
 Rachel! Rachel! for you I gun,  
 I have my bag full when you are won!

Like thorn hedges by the Christeen creek  
 Tinted with red is my reed-bird's cheek,  
 Trim as the hedge tops her father clips  
 Are the soft lines to my sweet bird's lips.  
 Rachel! Rachel! why don't you come?  
 Let me take Rachel to my own home!  
 Rachel! Rachel! thou fat marsh chick,  
 How for my supper thy plushing would pick!

Fall comes fast on the Christeen creek;  
 Soon I must migrate unless thou speak:  
 Dear little Quaker of frost bethink!  
 I will be gone with the Bob-o-link.  
 Rachel! Rachel! why don't you wed?  
 Winter, my Rachel! in my marsh bed!  
 Rachel! Rachel! the wind blows bleak,  
 Fly to my boat on the Christeen creek!

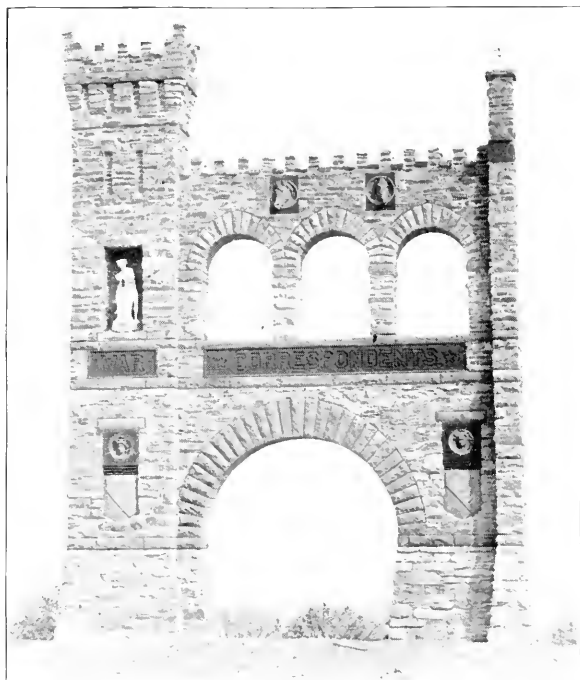
## ANGELS IN MASK

As from the throng of moving masks  
I drew a space apart,  
Well known to some unknown to me,  
By my imperfect Art,  
One, in the habit of a nun,  
Stopped short, as in surprise,  
And through her domino I saw  
Two soft, regarding eyes.

Long looked we both, for half I felt  
Her gaze no mischief spoke,  
And knew it, when a woman's hand  
Reached to me from the cloak;  
A voice I never heard before,  
But most sincere and sweet,  
Said, "Ah! my love, do we once more  
Touch hand to hand and meet?"

"Fair domino," I said, "indeed,  
Unmask before you go,  
And tell your trouble in my ear,  
Why do you tremble so?"  
"I tremble for the virgin years  
When o'er my mind supreme,  
You were the hero of my fears,  
The gallant of my dream."

"And did I never know your will,  
When then, perchance, my heart  
Like yours, was longing for a shrine,  
A mistress, or an art?"



ARCH OF THE WAR CORRESPONDENTS, GAUPLAND, MD.



"No, mine was all the pleasant pain,  
And heaven permits it here,  
To say that still, as when a child,  
I follow your career.

"My husband passes — Nay! you must!  
No guilty secret mine."  
A strong man's hand came frankly forth,  
I saw his dark eyes shine;  
"In honor's way God keep you long!"  
These manly sounds I heard,  
"And never may you cease to be  
Our favorite household word."

They vanished in the moving crowd  
And left me wondering quite,  
Until I heard my comrade say:  
"Whom have you seen to-night?"  
"To guess," I said, "were fruitless task,  
When all this maze I see;  
But, if they ever come in mask,  
Two angels spoke to me."

RIDE FROM FIVE FORKS

APRIL 1, 1865

Ho! pony. Down the lonely road  
Strike now your cheeriest pace!  
The woods on fire do not burn higher  
Than burns my anxious face;  
Far have you sped, but all this night

Must feel my nervous spur;  
If we be late, the world must wait  
The tidings we aver: —  
To home and hamlet, town and hearth,  
To thrill child, mother, man,  
I carry to the waiting North  
Great news from Sheridan!

The birds are dead among the pines,  
Slain by the battle fright,  
Prone in the road the steed reclines  
That never reached the fight:  
Yet on we go, — the wreck below .  
Of many a tumbled wain, —  
By ghastly pools where stranded mules  
Die, drinking of the rain.  
With but my list of killed and missed,  
I spur my stumbling nag,  
To tell of death at many a tryst,  
But victory to the flag!

“Halt! who comes there? The countersign!” —  
“A friend.” — “Advance! The fight, —  
How goes it, say?” — “We won the day!” —  
“Huzza! Pass on!” — “Good-night!” —  
And parts the darkness on before,  
And down the mire we tramp,  
And the black sky is painted o’er  
With many a pulsing camp;  
O’er stumps and ruts, by ruined huts,  
Where ghosts look through the gloam, —  
Behind my tread I hear the dead  
Follow the news tow’rd home!



The hunted souls I see behind,  
In swamp and in ravine,  
Whose cry of mercy thrills the wind  
Till cracks the sure carbine ;  
The moving lights which scare the dark,  
And show the trampled place  
Where, in his blood, some mother's bud  
Turns up his young, dead face ;  
The captives spent, whose standards rent  
The conqueror parades,  
As at the Five Forks roads arrive  
The General's dashing Aides.

O wondrous Youth ! through this grand ruth  
Runs my boy's life its thread ;  
The General's fame, the battle's name,  
The rolls of maimed and dead  
I bear, with my thrilled soul astir,  
And lonely thoughts and fears,  
And am but History's courier  
To bind the conquering years ;  
A battle-ray, through ages gray  
To light to deeds sublime,  
And flash the lustre of this day  
Down all the aisles of Time !

Ho ! pony, — 'tis the signal gun —  
The night-assault decreed ;  
On Petersburg the thunderbolts  
Crash from the lines of Meade ;  
Fade the pale, frightened stars o'erhead,  
And shrieks the bursting air ;

The forest foliage, tinted red,  
Grows ghastlier in the glare ;  
Though in Her towers, reached Her last hours,  
Rocks proud Rebellion's crest —  
The world may sag, if but my nag  
Get in before the rest !

With bloody flank, and fetlocks dank,  
And goad, and lash, and shout —  
Great God ! as every hoof-beat falls  
A hundred lives beat out !  
As weary as this broken steed  
Reels down the corduroys,  
So, weary, fight for morning light  
Our hot and grimy boys ;  
Through ditches wet, o'er parapet  
And guns barbette, they catch  
The last, lost breach ; and I, — I reach  
The mail with my despatch !

Sure it shall speed, the land to read,  
As sped the happiest shell !  
The shot I send strike the world's end ;  
*This* tells my pony's knell ;  
His long race run, the long war done,  
My occupation gone, —  
Above his bier, prone on the pier,  
The vultures flock the dawn.  
Still, rest his bones where soldiers dwell,  
Till the Long Roll they catch.  
He fell the day that Richmond fell,  
And took the first despatch !

## LAND OF POCOMOKE

(EASTERN SHORE OF MARYLAND)

ONE day, worn out with head and pen,  
And the debate of public men,

I said aloud, "O! if there were  
Some place to make me young awhile,

I would go there, I would go there,  
And if it were a many a mile!"

Then something cried — perhaps my map,  
That not in vain I oft invoke —

"Go seek again your mother's lap,  
The dear old soil that gave you sap,  
And see the land of Pocomoke!"

A sense of shame that never yet  
My foot on that old shore was set,

Though prodigal in wandering,  
Arose; and with a tingled cheek,

Like some late wild duck on the wing,  
I started down the Chesapeake.

The morning sunlight, silvery calm,  
From basking shores of woodland broke,

And capes and inlets breathing balm,  
And lovely islands clothed in palm,  
Closed round the sound of Pocomoke.

The pungy boats at anchor swing,  
The long canoes were oystering,

And moving barges played the seine  
Along the beaches of Tangiers;

I heard the British drums again

As in their predatory years,  
When Kedge's Straits the Tories swept,  
And Ross's camp-fires hid in smoke.  
They plundered all the coasts except  
The camp the Island Parson kept  
For praying men of Pocomoke.

And when we thread in quaint intrigue  
Onancock Creek and Pungoteague,  
The world and wars behind us stop.  
On God's frontiers we seem to be  
As at Rehoboth wharf we drop,  
And see the Kirk of Mackemie:  
The first he was to teach the creed  
The rugged Scotch will ne'er revoke;  
His slaves he made to work and read,  
Nor powers Episcopal to heed,  
That held the glebes on Pocomoke.

But quiet nooks like these unman  
The grim predestinarian,  
Whose soul expands to mountain views;  
And Wesley's tenets, like a tide,  
These level shores with love suffuse,  
Where'er his patient preachers ride.  
The landscape quivered with the swells  
And felt the steamer's paddle stroke,  
That tossed the hollow gum-tree shells,  
As if some puffing craft of hell's  
The fisher chased in Pocomoke.

Anon the river spreads to coves,  
And in the tides grow giant groves.

The water shines like ebony,  
And odors resinous ascend  
From many an old balsamic tree,  
Whose roots the terrapin befriend ;  
The great ball cypress, fringed with beard,  
Presides above the water oak,  
As doth its shingles, well revered,  
O'er many a happy home endeared  
To thousands far from Pocomoke.

And solemn hemlocks drink the dew,  
Like that old Socrates they slew ;  
The piny forests moan and moan,  
And in the marshy splutter docks,  
As if they grazed on sky alone,  
Rove airily the herds of ox.  
Then, like a narrow strait of light,  
The banks draw close, the long trees yoke,  
And strong old manses on the height  
Stand overhead, as to invite  
To good old cheer on Pocomoke.

And cunning baskets midstream lie  
To trap the perch that gambol by ;  
In coves of creek the saw-mills sing,  
And trim the spar and hew the mast ;  
And the gaunt loons dart on the wing,  
To see the steamer looming past.  
Now timber shores and massive piles  
Repel our hull with friendly stroke,  
And guide us up the long defiles,  
Till, after many fairy miles  
We reach the head of Pocomoke.

Is it Snow Hill that greets me back  
To this old loamy *cul-de-sac*? —  
    Spread on the level river shore,  
Beneath the bending willow-trees  
    And speckled trunks of sycamore,  
All moist with airs of rival seas?  
    Are these old men who gravely bow,  
As if a stranger all awoke,  
    The same who heard my parents vow,  
    — Ah well! in simpler days than now —  
To love and serve by Pocomoke?

Does Chincoteague, as then, produce  
These rugged ponies, lean and spruce?  
    Are these the steers of Accomack  
That do the negro's drone obey?  
    The things of childhood all come back:  
The wonder tales of mother day!  
    The jail, the inn, the ivy vines  
That yon old English churchside cloak,  
    Wherein we read the stately lines  
    Of Addison, writ in his signs,  
Above the dead of Pocomoke.

The world in this old nook may peep,  
And think it listless and asleep;  
    But I have seen the world enough  
To think its grandeur something dull;  
    And here were men of sterling stuff,  
In their own era wonderful:  
    Young Luther Martin's wayward race,  
And William Winder's core of oak,

The lion heart of Samuel Chase,  
And great Decatur's royal face,  
And Henry Wise of Pocomoke.

When we have raged our little part,  
And weary out of strife and art,  
Oh! could we bring to these still shores  
The peace they have who harbor here,  
And rest upon our echoing oars,  
And float adown this tranquil sphere!

Then, might yon stars shine down on me,  
With all the hope those lovers spoke,  
Who walked these tranquil streets I see,  
And thought God's love nowhere so free,  
Nor life so good, as Pocomoke.

## OLD ST. MARY'S

(CAPITAL OF COLONIAL MARYLAND)

THIS is the river. Like Southampton water  
It enters broadly in the woody lands,  
As if to break a continent asunder,  
And sudden ceasing, lo! the city stands:  
St. Mary's — stretching forth its yellow hands  
Of beach, beneath the bluff where it commands  
In vision only; for the fields are green  
Above the pilgrims. Pleasant is the place;  
No ruin mars its immemorial face.  
As young as in virginity renewed,  
Its widow's sorrows gone without a trace,  
And tempting man to woo its solitude.

The river loves it, and embraces still  
Its comely form with two small arms of bay,  
Whereon, of old, the Calverts' pinnace lay,  
The Dove — dear bird! — the olive in its bill,  
That to the Ark returned from every gale  
And found a haven by this sheltering hill.

Lo! all composed, the soft horizons lie  
Afloat upon the blueness of the coves,  
And sometimes in the mirage does the sky  
Seem to continue the dependent groves,  
And draw in the canoe that careless roves  
Among the stars repeated round the bow.  
Far off the larger sails go down the world,  
For nothing worldly sees St. Mary's now;  
The ancient windmills all their sails have furled,  
The standards of the Lords of Baltimore,  
And they, the Lords, have passed to their repose;  
And nothing sounds upon the pebbly shore  
Except thy hidden bell, Saint Inigo's!

There, in a wood, the Jesuits' chapel stands  
Amongst the gravestones, in secluded calm.  
But, Sabbath days, the censer's healing balm,  
The Crucified with His extended hands,  
And music of the masses, draw the fold  
Back to His worship as in days of old.

Upon a cape the priest's house northward blinks,  
To see St. Mary's Seminary guard  
The dead that sleep within the parish yard,  
In English faith — the parish church that links  
The present with the perish'd, for its walls



Are of the clay that was the capital's,  
When halberdiers and musketeers kept ward,  
And armor sounded in the oaken halls.

A fruity smell is in the school-house lane,  
The clover bees are sick with evening heats,  
A few old houses from the window pane  
Fling back the flame of sunset, and there beats  
The throb of oars from basking oyster fleets,  
And clangorous music of the oyster tongs,  
Plunged down in deep bivalvulous retreats,  
And sound of seine drawn home with negro songs.

Night falls as heavily in such a clime  
As tired childhood after all day's play,  
Waiting for mother who has passed away,  
And some old nurse, with iterated rhyme  
Of hymns or topics of the olden time,  
Lulls wonder with her tenderness to rest:  
So, old St. Mary's! at the close of day,  
Sing thou to me, a truant, on thy breast!

## HERMAN OF BOHEMIA MANOR

### I. — THE MANOR

"My corn is gathered in the bins,"  
The Lord Augustin Herman said;  
"My wild swine romp in chincapins;  
Dried are the deer and beaver skins;  
And on Elk Mountain's languid head  
The autumn woods are red.

“So in my heart an autumn falls;  
I stand a lonely tree unleaved;  
And to my hermit manor walls  
The wild-goose from the water calls,  
As if to mock a man bereaved:  
My years are nearly sheaved.

“Go saddle me the Flemish steed  
My brother Verlett gave to me,  
What time his sister did concede  
Her dainty hand to hear me plead!  
Poor soul! she’s mouldering by the sea  
And I with misery.”

The slave man brought the wild-maned horse,—  
All wilder that with stags he grazed —  
Bred from the seed the knightly Norse  
Rode from Araby. Like remorse  
The eyes in his gray forehead blazed,  
As on his lord he gazed.

“Now guard ye well my lands and stock;  
Slack not the seine, ply well the axe!  
The eagle circles o’er the flock;  
The Indian at my gates may knock;  
The firelock prime for his attacks!  
I ride the sunrise tracks.”

Swift as a wizard on a broom,  
The strong gray horse and rider ran,  
Adown the forest stripped of bloom.  
By stump and bough that scarce gave room  
To pass the woodman’s caravan,  
Rode the Bohemian.

"Lord Herman, stay," the brewer cried,  
 "And Huddy's friendly flagon clink!"  
 And martial Hinoyóssa spied  
 The horseman, moving with the tide  
 That ebbed from Appoquinimink,  
 Nor stopped to rest or drink.

"Where rides old Herman?" Beekman mused;  
 "That railing wife has turned his head."  
 "He keeps the saddle as he used,  
 In younger days, when he infused  
 Three provinces," Pierre Alricks said,  
 "And mapped their landscapes spread."

Broad rose Zuydt River as the sail  
 Above his periauger flew;  
 Loud neighed the steed to snuff the gale;  
 But Herman saw not, swift and pale,  
 Two carrier pigeons, winging true  
 Northeast, across the blue.

They quit the cage of Stuyvesant's spy,  
 And lurking Willems' message bore:  
 ("This morn rode Herman rapid by,  
 Tow'rd Amsterdam, to satisfy  
 Yet wider titles than he tore  
 From shallow Baltimore!")

## II. — REPLEVIN

The second sunset at his back  
 From Navesink Highlands threw the shade  
 Of horse and Herman, long and black,

Across the golden ripples' track,  
Where with the Kills the ocean played  
A measured serenade ;

There, where to sea a river ran,  
Between tall hills of brown and sand,  
A mountain island rose to span  
The outlet of the Raritan,  
And made a world on either hand  
Soft as a poet planned :

Fair marshes pierced with brimming creeks,  
Where wild-fowl dived to oyster caves ;  
And shores that swung to wooded peaks,  
Where many a falling water seeks  
The cascade's plunge to reach the waves,  
And greenest farmland laves ;

Deep tide to every roadstead slips,  
And many capes confuse the shore,  
Yet none do with their forms eclipse  
Yon ocean, made for royal ships,  
Whose swells on silver beaches roar  
And rock forevermore.

Old Herman gazed through lengthening shades  
Far up the inland, where the spires,  
Defined on rocky palisades,  
Flung sunset from their burnished blades,  
And with their bells in evening choirs  
Breathed homesick men's desires :

"New Amsterdam ! 'tis thine or mine —  
The foreground of this stately plan !

To me the Indian did assign —  
Totem on totem, line on line —  
Both Staten and the groves that ran  
Far up the Raritan.

“ By spiteful Stuyvesant long restrained,  
Now, while the English break his power,  
Be Achter Kill again regained  
And Herman's title entertained! —  
Here float my banner from my tower!  
Here is my right, my hour!”

III. — THE SQUATTERS

He scarce had finished, when a rush,  
Like partridge through the stubble, broke,  
And armèd men trod down the brush;  
A harsh voice, trembling in the hush,  
As it must either stab or choke,  
Imperiously spoke:

“ Ye conquered men of Achter Kill,  
Whose farms by loyal toil ye got,  
True Dutchmen! give this traitor will —  
And he is yours to loose or kill —  
All that ye have he will allot  
Anew — field, cradle, cot.

“ Years past, beyond our Southern bounds,  
On States' commission sent by me,  
He mapped the English papists' grounds,  
And like a Judas, o'er our wounds,  
Our raiment parted openly:  
This is the man ye see!

“ Yet, followed by my sleepless age,  
Fast as he rode my pigeons sped —  
Straight as the ravens from their cage,  
Straight as the arrows of my rage,  
Straight as the meteor overhead  
That strikes a traitor dead.”

They bound Lord Herman fast as hate,  
And bore him o'er to Staten Isle ;  
Behind him closed the postern gate,  
And round him pitiless as fate,  
Closed moat and palisade and pile :  
“ Thou diest at morn,” they smile.

#### IV. — STUYVESANT

Morn broke on lofty Staten's height,  
O'er low Amboy and Arthur Kill ;  
And ocean dallying with the light,  
Between the beaches leprous white,  
And silent hook and headland hill,  
And Stuyvesant had his will ;

One-legged he stood, his sharp mustache  
Stiff as the sword he slashed in ire ;  
His bald crown, like a calabash,  
Fringed round with ringlets white as ash,  
And features scorched with inner fire ;  
Age wore him like a briar.

“ Bring the Bohemian forth ! ” he cried ;  
“ Old man, thy moments are but few.”  
“ So much the better, Dutchman ! bide

Thy little time of aged pride,  
 Thy poor revenges to pursue! —  
 Thy date is hastening, too.

“No crime is mine, save that I sought  
 A refuge past thy jealous ken,  
 And peaceful arts to strangers taught,  
 And mine own title hither brought,  
 Before the laws of Englishmen,  
 A banished denizen.

“Yet that thy churlish soul may plead  
 A favor to a dying foe,  
 I’ll ask thee, Stuyvesant, ere I bleed,  
 Let me once more on my gray steed  
 Thrice round the timbered *enceinte* go:  
 Fire, when I tell thee so!”

“What freak is this?” quoth Stuyvesant grim.  
 Quoth Herman, “’Twas a charger brave —  
 Like my first bride in eye and limb —  
 A wedding-gift; indulge the whim!  
 And from his back to plunge, I crave,  
 A bridegroom, in her grave.”

Then, muttered the uneasy guard:  
 “We rob an old man of his lands,  
 And slay him. Sure his fate is hard,  
 His dying plea to disregard!”  
 “Ride then to death!” Stuyvesant commands;  
 “Unbind his horse, his hands!”

## V. — THE LEAP

The old steed darted in the fort,  
And neighed and shook his long gray mane ;  
Then, seeing soldiery, his port  
Grew savage. With a charger's snort,  
Upright he reared, as young again  
And scenting a campaign.

Hard on his nostrils Herman laid  
An iron hand and drew him down,  
Then, mounting in the esplanade,  
The rude Dutch rustics stared afraid :  
" By Santa Claus ! he needs no crown,  
To look more proud renown ! "

Lame Stuyvesant, also, envious saw  
How straight he sat in courteous power,  
Like boldness sanctified by law,  
And age gave magisterial awe ;  
Though in his last and bitter hour,  
Of knightliness the flower.

His gray hairs o'er his cassock blew,  
And in his peak'd hat waved a plume ;  
A horn swung loose and shining through  
High boots of buckskin, as he drew  
The rein, a jewel burst to bloom :  
The signet ring of doom.

" Thrice round the fort ! Then as I raise  
This hand, aim all and murder well ! "  
His head bends low ; the steed's eyes blaze,



But not less bright do Herman's gaze,  
As circling round the citadel,  
He peers for hope in hell.

Fast were the gates; no crevice showed.

The ramparts, spiked with palisades,  
Grew higher as once round he rode;  
The arquebusiers prime the load  
And drop to aim from ambuscades;  
No latch, no loophole aids.

But one small hut its chimney thrust

Between the timbers, close as they;  
Twice round and with a desperate trust  
Lord Herman muttered: "Die I must:

*There, CHARGE!*" and spurred through beam  
and clay —

"By heaven! he is away!"

#### VI. — THE KILLS

In clouds of dust the muskets fire,

And volleying oaths old Stuyvesant from:

"Turn out! In yonder Kills he'll mire

Or down, unless the fiends conspire.

"Mount! Follow! Still he must succumb —  
That tide was never swum."

Through hut and chimney, down the ditch

And up the bank, plunge horse and man;

And down the hills of bramble pitch,

Oft stumbling, those old gray knees which,

Hunting the raccoon, led the van;

Now, limp yet game he ran.

But cool and supple, Herman sat,  
His mind at work, his frame the horse's,  
And knew with each pulsation, that  
Past foe and fen, past crag, and flat,  
And marsh, the steed he nearer forces  
To the broad sea's recourses.

"Old friend," he thought, "thou art too weak  
To try the Kills and drown, or falter,  
The while from shore their marksmen seek  
My heart. (Once o'er the Chesapeake  
I paddled oarless.) Lest the halter  
Be mine, I must not palter —

"Thou diest, though my marriage-gift :  
I still can swim. Poor Joost, adieu !"  
Ere ceased the heartfelt sigh he lift,  
The prospect widened ; all adrift,  
The salty sluice burst into view,  
Where grappling tides fought through

And sucked to doom the venturous bear,  
And from his ferry swept the rower —  
How wide, how terrible, how fair !  
Yet how inspiriting the air —  
How tempts the long salt grass the mower !  
How treacherous the shore !

Far up the right spread Newark Bay,  
To lone Secaucus wooded rock ;  
Nor could the Kill von Kull convey  
Passaic's mountain flood away :  
In Arthur Kill the surges choke,  
The wild tides interlock.

O'er Arthur Kill the Holland farms  
Their gambril roofs, red painted, show ;  
Beyond, the newer Yankee swarms —  
His cider-presses spread their arms.  
Before, the squatter ; back, the foe :  
And the dark waters flow.

As that salt air the stallion felt,  
He whimpers gayly, as if still is  
Upon his sight his native Scheldt,  
Or Skagger Rack, or Little Belt, —  
Their waving grass and silver lilies,  
Where browsed the amorous fillies.

And o'er the tide some lady nags  
Blew back his challenge. Scarce could Herman  
Hold in his seat. "By John of Prague's  
True faith!" he thought, "thy spirit lags  
Not, Joost! Thy course thyself determine!"  
And plunges like a merman.

Leander's spirit in the steed  
Inspired his stroke, not Herman's fear ;  
And fast the island shores recede,  
Fast rise the rider's spirits freed,  
The golden mainland draws more near —  
"O gallant horse! 'tis here!"

VII. — ELUSION

Across the Kills the muskets crack —  
"Ha! ha!" Lord Herman waves his beaver :  
"Die of thy spleen ere I come back,

Old Stuyvesant!" With a noise of wrack  
The fort blew up of his aggriever!—  
But not without retriever;

For from the smoke two pigeons fly,  
One south, one westward, separating,  
And straight as arrows crossed the sky,  
With silent orders ("*He must die*  
*Who comes hereafter. Lie in waiting!*")  
Their snowy pinions freighting.

They warn the men of Minisink;  
They warn the Dutchmen of Zuydt River.  
Now speed to Jersey's farther brink,  
Old horse, old master, ere ye shrink!—  
Or ambushed fall ere moonrise quiver  
On paths where ye shall shiver.

On went the twain till past the ford  
That red-walled Raritan led over,  
And lonely woodland shades explored.  
Unarmed with firelock or with sword,  
Free-hearted rode the forest rover,  
Of all wild kind the drover:

Fled deer and bear before his coming,  
The wild-cat glared, the viper hissed;  
And died the long day's insect-drumming.  
Where things of night began their humming,  
And witchly phantoms went to tryst,  
Was Herman exorcist.

“No land so tangled but my eye  
Can map its confines and its courses ;  
Yet on life’s map who can espy  
Where hides his foe — where he shall die ?”  
So Herman said, and his resources  
Resigned unto his horse’s.

All night the steed instinctive travelled —  
His weary rider wept for him —  
Through unseen gulfs the whirlwind ravelled,  
Up moonlit beds of streamlets gravelled,  
Till halting every bleeding limb,  
He stands by something dim,

And will not stir till morning breaks.  
“What is ’t I see, low clustering there,  
Beyond those broadening bays and lakes,  
That yonder point familiar makes ? —  
Is it New Amstel, lowly fair,  
And this the Delaware ?”

VIII. — THE ECHO

Lord Herman hugged his horse with pride ;  
He raised his horn and blew so loudly,  
That more than echoes back replied :  
Horns answered louder ; horsemen cried,  
And muskets banged, as if avowedly  
On Stuyvesant’s errand proudly !

“Die, traitor ! flee ! though thou ’scape  
Our ambush on thy devil’s racer,  
Caught here upon this marshy cape,

Thy bones the muskrat's brood shall scrape,  
The sturgeon suck — Death thy embracer!"  
So shouts each sanguine chaser.

To die in sight of Amstel's walls,  
And gallant Joost to die beside him? —  
O foolish blast, such fate that calls!  
O river, that the heart appalls!  
Dear Joost may live. And *they* bestride him?  
"By hell! none else shall ride him!

"My steed, thy limbs like mine are sore!  
Few years are left us ere the billows  
Roll over both. Come but once more,  
And to the bottom or the shore,  
Bear me and thee to happy pillows,  
Or 'neath the water willows!"

He strokes old Joost. He bends him low.  
He winds his horn and laughs derision.  
One spring! — they've cleared the bog and sloe,  
And down the ebb-tide buoyant go —  
That stately tide, so like a vision  
Of home, to Norse and Frisian,

Where full a league spread Maas and Rhine,  
And in the marsh the rice-birds twitter;  
The long cranes pasture and the kine  
Loom lofty in the misty shine  
Of dawn and reedy islands glitter:  
Yet death all where is bitter.

Ere out of range a volley peals,  
But greed too great made aye a blunder.  
His horse Lord Herman's self conceals,  
Yet once his horse and he go under,  
And rise again. No wound he feels.  
They hold their fire in wonder!

Short of the mark the bullets splash :  
"Now drown thee, wizard! at thy pleasure,"  
The Dutchmen hiss through teeth they gnash.  
He answers not; for o'er the splash  
Of waves he hears Joost's gasping measure  
Of breath's fast wasting treasure.

IX. — PEGASUS

The sighs when dying comrades fall,  
Struck by the foe, are only sad;  
They leaped the ditch and climbed the wall,  
And shared the purpose of us all;  
The fame they have; the joy they had:  
"Rest in thy tracks, brave lad!"

But thou, poor beast! unknown to fame,  
Whose heart is reached while ours is bounding,  
Amidst the victory's acclaim —  
By thee we kneel with more of shame,  
That bore us through the fight resounding,  
And dumbly took our wounding!

Lord Herman saw the blood drops seethe,  
The nag's neck droop, the nostril bubble,  
And loosed the bridle from his teeth;

Yet swam the old legs underneath,  
Invincibly. The gap they double ;  
But further swim in trouble.

And lovely Nature stretched her aid,  
Her sympathetic tow and eddy ;  
The oars of air with azure blade,  
And silent gravities persuade  
And waft them onward, slow and steady —  
On duteous deeds aye ready.

High leaped the perch. The hawk screamed joy.  
Under Joost's belly musically  
The ripples broke. Bright clouds convoy  
The brute that man would but destroy,  
And all instinctive agents rally  
Strong and medicinally.

In vain ! The gurgling waters suck  
That old life under. Herman swimming  
Seized but the horse tail. Like a buck  
Breasting a lake in wild woods' pluck,  
Joost rose, the glaze his bright eyes dimming,  
And blood his sockets brimming.

Then, voices speak and women cry.  
The treading feet find soil to stand.  
Above them the green ramparts lie,  
And 'twixt their shadows and the sky,  
The wondering burghers crowd the strand,  
And Herman help to land :



“Now to Newcastle’s English walls,  
Hail, Herman! and thy matchless stud!”  
Joost staggers up the bank and falls,  
And, dying, to his master crawls,  
Yields up his long solicitude,  
And spills his veins of blood.

In Herman’s arms his neck is prest,  
With martial pride his dark eye glazes;  
He feels the hand he loves the best  
Stroke fondly, and a chill of rest,  
As if he rolled in pasture daisies  
And heard in winds his praises:

“O couldst thou speak, what wouldst thou say?  
I, who can speak, am dumb before thee.  
Thine eyes that drink Olympian day  
Where steeds of wings thy soul convey,  
With pride of eagles circling o’er thee:  
Thou seest I adore thee!

“Bound to thy starry home and her  
Who brought me thee and left earth hollow!  
An honored grave thy bones inter,  
And painting shall thy fame confer,  
Ere in thy shining track I follow,  
Thou courser of Apollo!”

## MECCA FROM OASIS

THE people of Mahomet  
In desert places dwell,  
The palm tree is their fortress,  
Their citadel a well;  
Once in their lives so lonely,  
They shall one city view —  
Mecca! Mecca! Mecca!  
We pilgrims long for you!

*(Repeat Chorus.)*

We Arabs love to circle  
Around the Caravan,  
Our hearts are ever social,  
We love our fellow-man,  
But Ishmael, our father,  
No habitation knew:  
Mecca! Mecca! Mecca!  
We pilgrims long for you!

Mahomet's mighty pity  
His lonely people gave  
One chance to see a city,  
Around his holy grave, —  
O, ope the golden wonder!  
The city let us view!  
Mecca! Mecca! Mecca!  
We pilgrims long for you!

## LATTER-DAY SAINTS

ALL evidences of a living church  
Are here, although imposture is its fame.  
The angel who made for a prophet search  
And showed him Revelation to reclaim  
Of his own hemisphere, that Christians smirch,  
But foreign superstition never blame ;  
Miracles, portents, exodus and flame,  
The Pentecost of tongues, martyrs, belief,  
Virtuous women to believers wife,  
Disciples watching with their doomèd chief,  
Apostles *victrix* over pagan strife,  
A Promised Land, a strictly-ordered life.  
Reason alone these evidences prods —  
Reason, that is the judgment seat on Gods.

УТАН, 1889.

## PLAYING HOUSE

WITHIN me lay a little boy  
When I thought I was a man ;  
He was too poor to own a toy  
And many a toy would plan ;  
A mystic hole — some cellar once —  
Lay in his father's parsonage lot :  
The fancy of this little dunce  
Built in the hole Aladdin's grot.

He saw a staircase there descend  
And he saw apartments rise —  
Stone walls, bright halls, rooms for a friend

And the maid with bashful eyes ;  
And Cinderella's steeds did browse  
In fancy on that pasture ridge,  
And fancy dropped from fancy's house,  
A road down to the springlet's bridge.

All fairy things the urchin planned,  
But Aladdin's uncle's lamp,  
Yet that alone was in his hand —  
The friendless little scamp :  
Inquiry, wistfulness, desire, —  
To find what *is* in what but seems, —  
The tinder wick to turn to fire  
The rusty lamp of golden dreams.

What is it yonder on the mount  
Like a palace that I see? —  
After the forty years I count  
In the caverns of mystery?  
A King's highway drops down the steep  
To a bridge across a brook,  
And I see a child who walks in sleep  
Descend with a lamp and book :

It is my bridge below my dome,  
My road, my steeds, I spy ;  
The hole in the pasture is my home  
And the little boy is I.  
Oh cruel uncle, leave me not  
Without my lamp's bright spark! —  
Though I am king of the golden grot,  
I am poor if it is dark.





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